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Poll gives Labour 7-point lead

By Robin Oakley, Political Editor

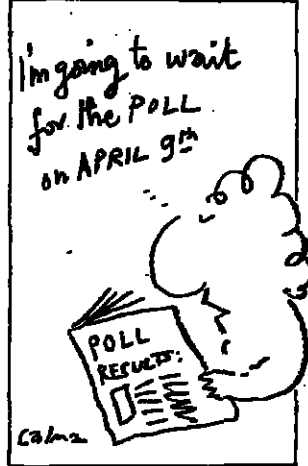
LABOUR has swept into a commanding lead in the three latest opinion polls, with a Mori survey for *The Times* today giving Neil Kinnock sufficient support to win a working majority of more than 20 seats in parliament.

The Mori results give Labour its greatest support since October, while the Conservatives are at their lowest ebb since last June.

The figures are Labour 42 per cent, Conservatives 35, Liberal Democrats 19, and others 4. The findings are the result of face-to-face interviews with 1,080 people on Monday. A week ago Mori put support for Labour at 41 per cent, with Conservatives 38, Liberal Democrats 17 and others 4.

If the results were repeated nationwide in a uniform swing on April 9, the Conservatives would lose more than 100 seats. Labour would win 337 seats in the Commons, with the Conservatives on 268, the Liberal Democrats on 18 and others 27. At the last election the Conservatives had 376 seats and Labour took 229.

In the first clear break of a previously deadlocked electoral campaign, Labour appears to have enjoyed a delayed benefit from lifting health to the top of the political agenda with the controversial Jennifer Bennett election broadcast. Conservative strategists were shocked by last night's polls, which emerged just as they believed that their campaign had begun to gain ground. They will now be scrambling to prevent the slide in their support gathering momentum.

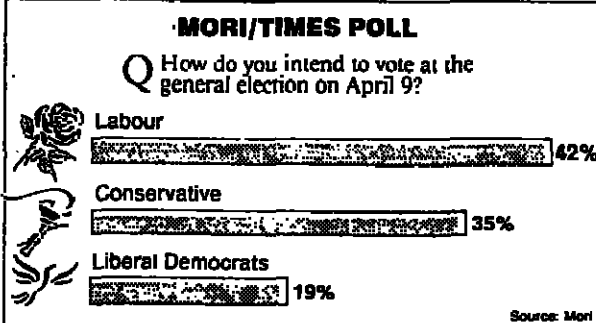


John Major refused to comment on the figures but a spokesman on his touring party said that he was confident of winning with a working majority. "Anyone who believes that we are only going to get 35 per cent on polling day needs their head examined," he said.

Neil Kinnock said the results were very good. "They are in line with constituency individual polls and regional polls which have been showing for some days that in the seats where this election will be decided we are doing extraordinarily well and will be making large gains."

Two other opinion polls also gave Labour a convincing lead last night. A Harris poll for ITN found party support at Labour 41 per cent, Conservatives 35, Liberal Democrats 19 and others 5. An ICM poll for today's *Guardian* measured Labour support at 41 per cent, with the Conservatives on 37, Liberal Democrats on 18 and others on 4 per cent.

The figures in the three polls shattered the belief of Conservative campaigners that the prime minister's



stronger showing over the past few days and Labour's apparent failure to profit from last week's health controversy had offered them the chance to win back the initiative. It seems, however, as though Labour's decision to promote the health debate has taken longer to work through than expected.

Health has soared even further ahead as the subject of chief concern to voters in deciding how to vote. It is now named by 56 per cent, ten points more than at the start of the election campaign.

When people were asked if the National Health Service was safe in Mr Major's hands, 53 per cent said that it was not and only 38 per cent believed that it was. Among

those who put health as their chief concern, the verdict was 64-29 per cent against the prime minister as a guardian of the NHS.

More than half of those questioned disbelieve the government's constant assertions that it has no plans to privatise the health service. 57 per cent expect a Conservative government to privatise the NHS and only 32 per cent think it would not.

The survey found that 57 per cent of respondents believed that Labour would make fulfil its promise to spend an extra £1 billion on the health service, while 30 per cent doubted the pledge.

When people were asked if the government's proposals for the NHS would improve standards of care or make

them worse, only 27 per cent believed the health service would benefit. The poll showed that 33 per cent believed the government plans would make it worse and 34 per cent said it would make no difference.

The Conservative campaign, revamped last weekend on less negative lines after the Tories' earlier failure to dent Labour's previously narrow lead, has not proved popular with the voters. When people were asked which party had run the most effective campaign 31 per cent named Labour, 28 per cent said the Liberal Democrats and only 13 per cent opted for the Conservatives.

While 65 per cent of Liberal Democrats and 56 per cent of Labour supporters believed their parties had the best campaigns only 26 per cent of Conservative supporters believed that their party's campaign effort was the best. Almost as many Conservatives, 24 per cent, thought the Liberal Democrats had the best campaign and 17 per cent of them thought Labour did.

The latest opinion polls will send shockwaves through the Conservative hierarchy, and are likely to provoke adverse

reactions in the markets, still further undermining the government's problems with the economy.

Preslogists, pollsters and party workers die several factors in Labour's sudden surge into a clear lead. The Conservatives are finding it impossible to induce a 'feel-good factor' against the constant stream of bleak economic statistics. They have enjoyed no outside bonus with England failing to win the world cup, bad news about the royal family and indifferent weather.

Above all, the Conservatives have failed to dominate the agenda or to make progress on their two chosen issues of the Labour leadership and taxation. Mr Kinnock has had a trouble-free campaign, improving his own leadership ratings, while the taxation issue has never gripped the public imagination. It is named in the latest Mori poll by only 15 per cent as an issue likely to determine their voting behaviour.

Election pages, 7-11
 Diary, page 14
 Anatole Kaletsky, page 14
 Leading article and letters, page 15
 Election sport, page 28

UN imposes sanctions on Libyans

By James Bone in New York and Michael Binyon

THE United Nations Security Council voted yesterday to impose sanctions on Libya for failing to hand over two suspects in the Lockerbie bombing, despite fears that Tripoli would retaliate by preventing thousands of British and other foreign workers from leaving the country.

All civilian air links and arms trade with Libya will be prohibited from April 15 — the anniversary of the 1986 American bombing raid on Tripoli — and Libya's diplomatic representation abroad will be compulsorily reduced.

Ten of the 15 security council members supported the sanctions resolution, only one more than the nine votes required. China, Cape Verde, India, Morocco, and Zimbabwe abstained.

Families of the Lockerbie

victims and uniformed Pan Am flight crew watched the vote from the public gallery.

"After the largest criminal investigation in the history of the world, these two men and Libya itself have been indicted," said George Williams, who lost his son, George, in the Lockerbie bombing.

"Now is the time for a trial," Ali Ahmed al-Houediri, Libya's ambassador, told the security council that reports that Libya was not issuing exit visas to some foreign workers seeking to leave the country were "baseless allegations". He criticised the council for acting before the International Court of Justice had ruled on Libya's claim that it has the right to try the two suspects itself under the 1971 Montreal Convention on airline terrorism.

The mandatory UN sanctions will come into force automatically on April 15 unless the security council decides before that deadline that Libya has met its demands and votes to lift them. Western diplomats said, however, it would be difficult for Libya to fulfil the council's conditions.

Of the five nations previously subjected to UN sanctions, only one, Rhodesia, has had them lifted, and then only when it became Zimbabwe. Comprehensive UN sanctions are still in place against Iraq, and UN arms embargoes are in force against South Africa, Yugoslavia, and Somalia.

Britain yesterday expressed concern about 5,000 British citizens living and working in Libya. Unspoken fears are mounting that some may be held in the country as hostages or possible human shields against any Western air strike.

Libya has refused exit visas to a number of foreigners, despite assurances previously given about the freedom of

Continued on page 18, col 8



Edith Cresson leaving the Elysée Palace after meeting President Mitterrand

Cresson on brink of resigning

From Philip Jacobson in Paris

EDITH Cresson appeared last night to be on the point of stepping down as prime minister of France after an unscheduled visit to the Elysée Palace for talks with President Mitterrand. But with speculation about her departure after just ten months in office reaching fever pitch, Mme Cresson steadfastly refused to give any hint about the outcome of their 35-minute meeting before leaving Paris for a pre-arranged official trip to Germany and a meeting with Helmut Kohl, the German chancellor.

The usual Wednesday meeting of France's Council of Ministers in the Elysée Palace will be going ahead today, leading some observers to conclude that Mme Cresson would not quit until that final session of her government was completed. Some sources speculate that she could even remain until the opening debates of the national assembly, which begins its spring session tomorrow, have taken place.

Fuelled by leaks from high places, French television was confident enough that Mme

Cresson is going as to name her replacement as Pierre Bérégovoy, the finance minister. He also had nothing to say publicly, although aides confirmed later that he had paid his regular Tuesday afternoon call on the president.

With Mitterrand engaged in ceremonial duties connected with yesterday's state visit by the Queen of Denmark, there was talk of a formal announcement being delayed until this morning, despite any misgivings about the association with April Fool's Day.

Candidates lose CND credentials

By Nicholas Wood, Political Correspondent

LABOUR campaign chiefs were accused yesterday of deleting all references to membership of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament from the official biographies of at least 24 of their election candidates.

Of the 634 Labour candidates at the election, who include well-known CND activists such as Joan Ruddock, Jeremy Corbyn and Ken Livingstone, only one, Bruce Kent, a former chairman of the organisation, declares his allegiance in the party's candidates directory issued to the media.

Allegations about the extent to which Labour has decided to play down the party's links with the unilateralist pressure group were made yesterday by Tom King, the defence secretary, and Chris Patten, the Conservative party chairman.

The move came at a preview of last night's Conservative election broadcast, which sought to resurrect defence as an election issue and accused Labour of planning deep cuts in the armed forces. The lavishly produced programme claimed that more than 100 Labour MPs were members of CND, highlighted Neil Kinnock's unilateralist past and claimed he could not be trusted with the nation's security in an uncertain world. "In 1992, voting Labour is a dangerous game," was the pay-off line.

Mr King accused Labour of perpetrating a "monstrous cover-up" in an attempt to persuade the country that it can be trusted to keep the nuclear deterrent and that it no longer has links with CND.

Mr King said he could prove his case because last year Labour party headquarters sent out advance copies of the first batch of 99 biographies, which typically run to about 150 words. Of these, 25 stated that they were members of CND. But when the full and final list of candidates was published at the start of the campaign, 24 of these biographies had been "doctored" to exclude all references to CND. The only exception was Mr Kent.

"What did we find? Not one Labour MP was listed as a CND member, no Jo Richardson, no Corbyn, no Crier, no Canavan, not even Joan Ruddock. Not only that but the first 24, who had been honest enough to include it in their biographies, had been censored, and the entries carefully doctored."

"To be fair one entry is not doctored — Bruce Kent. Even Labour's censors could not fake that one."

Mr King conceded that so far defence had not figured in the campaign. Labour wanted it that way and they would do all they could to avoid it becoming an issue. "They will go to the lengths that we are demonstrating today to cover up anything that might be embarrassing to them."

The defence secretary released a Conservative central office dossier comparing the draft biographies with the final versions. In each case, CND membership appears in the first version and disappears from the final one.

Continued on page 18, col 8

Onion war retaliation

The haulier whose consignment of onions was burnt by French farmers has threatened to block cross-Channel trade by jamming a lorry across the ferry ramp at Roscoff if another of his vehicles is attacked or his staff hurt. Page 2

Air deal

The Scandinavian airline SAS has increased its stake in Airlines of Britain, the parent company of British Midland, from 24.9 to 40 per cent. Sir Michael Bishop retains his 58 per cent stake. Page 19

Holiday offer

The *Times* is collaborating with Hilton hotels to offer readers a half-price two-night luxury break in Britain or on the Continent. Life & Times, page 4

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LIFE & TIMES

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Employers seeking chief executives, managers and other senior staff are advertising tomorrow in 12 pages of appointments in the Life & Times section.



1X

Day of decision arrives for future of Belgium

By Our Foreign Staff

AFTER 162 years of independence, talks today on the future of Belgium are likely to throw the country's existence into doubt. The Dutch-speaking region of Flanders in the north may now decide to rejoin The Netherlands, while Wallonia, the francophone south, could opt to fulfil a dream that even Napoleon could never achieve, union with France.

Alternatively, the country may merge into a new Benelux state. Brussels, the capital, has long been expected to emerge as the self-governing capital of the European Community. The startling possibility, to be discussed at a secret meeting today of



members of the squabbling francophone and Dutch-speaking parties, comes after years of increasingly arduous attempts to hold the country together.

Dismantlement of the unified state, the most drastic option available, was kept so secret, for fear of derailing the delicate negotiations,

that almost nobody in Belgium is yet aware of the momentous implications. A report has been made available to *The Times* from a source inside the European Community's 24th directorate, which has the most to gain from the change.

The implications for the European Community of the break up of Belgium would be serious. With only 11 members instead of 12, there will be one fewer commissioner, and The Netherlands and France will have to take up Belgium's share of the budget. It had been hoped that both Flanders and Wallonia could enter separately, but this raised the issue of whether the Community is yet ready to recog-

nise regions as countries — an issue strongly supported by Scottish and other nationalists. In southern Europe, there is widespread distrust of such triskaidekaphobia.

The disappearance of Belgium would mean that the United Kingdom would hand over the presidency directly to Denmark, the next in alphabetical order. All countries would be required to shift the term of their presidency forward by six months.

The designation of Brussels as a federal capital of Europe would give the Community a "neutral ground" headquarters, much like Washington DC or Canberra. The details of how it would be administered and financed are unclear, but the

day-to-day running would probably remain with the mayors of the city's 19 boroughs.

The timetable of the break-up has still to be worked out. Both Flanders and Wallonia are largely self-governing, under the final revision of the constitutional arrangements which devolve almost all power and government functions to the regional capitals in Ghent and Namur. Brussels is at present a separate self-governing region of its own.

Flemish radio was yesterday on strike, blacking out early rumours of today's *Times* story, including its deadline.

Leading article, page 15

TODAY IN THE TIMES

EXCLUSIVE ENTERPRISE



In Gilbert Adair's book, *E is for expunging, excising, eliminating, etc* Life & Times Page 1

EDUCATING ELIZA



Jane Washington can distinguish 124 vowel sounds — six fewer than Professor Higgins but enough for the National Life & Times Page 3

ENTICING ESCAPISM



TV has sprung another tourist trap — Bernard Richards on the lure of the camomile lawn Page 14

Will your only legacy be upset, confusion and paperwork?

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Christian Aid

£10m saves Holbein painting for the nation

BY SARAH JANE CHECKLAND
SALEROOM CORRESPONDENT

A HOLBEIN masterpiece scheduled to be auctioned in two weeks has been bought for the nation for £10 million. *Lady with a Pet Squirrel and a Starling* will be in the National Gallery, London, from April 28, alongside *The Ambassadors* and *Christina of Denmark*, also by Hans Holbein.

The deal, which ends three weeks of intense speculation, was clinched yesterday between Christie's, the auctioneers, and Jack Baer, the London dealer who acted for the gallery.

Lord Cholmondeley, the seller, turned down an offer of £8 million last week. He spent last weekend considering a revised offer of £10 million, making his final decision yesterday.

"This is great news," Sir Nicholas Goodison, chairman of the National Art Collections Fund, and a contributor to the purchase price, said. "It has been a tense time not knowing whether this masterpiece would reach its rightful home in the National Gallery."

Roger Lane-Smith, Lord Cholmondeley's solicitor, said: "Lord Cholmondeley is very pleased at the outcome because it achieves a fair balance between his needs and the nation's desires." The money would be used "primarily for the maintenance" of Houghton, Lord Cholmondeley's home in Norfolk, he added.

Christie's said in a statement that the £10 million would "go only some way to preserving Houghton" prompting fears that this sale would not be Lord Chol-

mondeley's last. The price is a coup for Christie's. Although the auctioneers have been foiled in their attempt to boost a flagging market with the auction of this work, the £10 million theoretically establishes a record price for an old master painting — the painting would have had to sell for around £30 million at auction for Lord Cholmondeley to have ended up with the private treaty sale price. This is because £5 million would have gone in auctioneers' commission and around £16 million in tax at 60 per cent. The auction record is £22 million for a portrait by the Mannerist Italian artist Pontormo.

The price is all the more surprising considering that the negotiators knew that, following the furore surrounding the sale, the auction may have flopped. The likelihood of a long-term, or even permanent, export ban was a strong disincentive to buyers. Now the National Gallery must mortgage its £2.75 million annual purchase grant for some years, as well as dipping into its £50 million gift from J. Paul Getty Junior. The National Heritage Memorial Fund has also pledged £3.5 million over three years, and the National Art Collections Fund £250,000. There is also the bill for Christie's, the agents.

The painting dates from Holbein's first stay in England, between 1526 and 1528, before he became court artist to Henry VIII. It was acquired by the third Earl of Cholmondeley in 1761 and passed by descent to the present owner.



Staying in Britain: the Holbein masterpiece

Eton joins battle for airwaves

BY MELINDA WITTSTOCK
MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

ETON College is taking on Frank Bough and several consortia of Asian businessmen in a the holly-contested battle to open a radio station for Windsor, Slough and Maidenhead.

The school, led by Sir David Nicholas, the former ITN chairman, and backed by Allied Radio, yesterday joined eight other groups bidding for the small local station, which will compete with 18 other stations for just 390,000 potential listeners.

The winner, to be announced in July, must persuade the Radio Authority that its output will appeal to a diverse audience ranging from Slough's large Asian and Afro-Caribbean population to well-to-do residents of Maidenhead and Windsor.

Mr Wogan, who has lived in the area for 22 years, has offered to appear occasionally as a presenter if his consortium is successful. The Eton bid promises to be "strong on news and local information" while offering "modern musical hits from the last 30 years". The bid follows a history of local involvement.

Media, L&T section, page 6

New Scots wildlife body woos old foes

Scottish Natural Heritage plans to involve local people, write Kerry Gill and John Hancox

DUNCAN Antonio is not a happy man. As chairman of the Loch Sween action committee, which has protested over the possibility of the west coast loch being turned into Scotland's first marine nature reserve, he regarded the Nature Conservancy Council for Scotland (NCCS) as "arrogant, academic and tactless".

At midnight last night the council ceased to exist. From today Scottish Natural Heritage will be responsible for the country's wide open spaces, from the Cairngorm wilderness to the newly-planned forests of the old industrial central belt.

But Mr Antonio remains unimpressed. "There was considerable hostility towards the NCCS and changing the name will not help," he said.

It is people like Mr Antonio that Scottish Natural Heritage, formed out of the NCCS and the Countryside Commission for Scotland, will seek to reassure with a philosophy of devolved decision-making intended to tackle potentially explosive environmental rows at a local level.



Still unimpressed: action committee chairman Duncan Antonio, right, with salmon fish farm workers on Loch Sween

Roger Crofts, the chief executive of SNH, said he and his 530 staff, working with a £34.6 million annual budget, would set up 13 area teams to decentralise care for the environment as much as possible. The organisation had

three main challenges, he said. Firstly it wants to encourage more access to areas within Scotland's industrial central belt. Up to 20,000 hectares will be planted with mixed trees over the next 20 to 30 years. Secondly, SNH faces prob-

lems caused by too many visitors at places such as Loch Lomond and Strathpey. Working parties will report on the best environmental policies for these areas. A third priority is the degradation caused by overgraz-

ing by sheep and deer which has denuded huge areas of the Highlands of foliage and trees. "We would like to see farm subsidies continued but restructured so a sheep farmer is paid to be a manager of the environment instead of sim-

ply managing a sheep flock," said Mr Crofts. In many areas deer have ruined vast tracts of upland. SNH envisages open forests in which properly managed herds can survive. Deer would be culled where overgrazing was out of hand.

Manx lifts legal ban on gays

BY RONALD FAUX

THE Isle of Man government yesterday agreed by 13 votes to 11 to legalise sexual acts in private between consenting men.

Acceptance of the amendment to the island's laws on sex was moved by Miles Walker, the chief minister. It is the first time that the Manx government has moved towards bringing homosexual legislation into line with the mainland and with the European convention on human rights.

The bill will go next week for its third reading in the House of Keys. Three readings before the legislative council follow, after which the measure is expected to receive royal assent.

Yesterday's five-hour debate in the House of Keys followed pressure from Westminster to come into line with Britain and most of Europe on the issue. A constitutional rift with the British government was feared if the Manx government once more defied London. Some Manx politicians claimed that a dangerous precedent would be set for more interference from London.

The measure was heavily defeated last year, but six new members of the House of Keys swung the issue.

Why God is more than mere talk

BY RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

MADONNA says she won't be happy until she is as famous as God. Gypsy Lee Rose says: "God is love, but get it in writing." According to Paul McCartney, God isn't in a pill but LSD explained the mystery of life — "it was a religious experience." Asked how he would like to achieve immortality, Woody Allen replied: "By not dying."

Nietzsche may have stated that God was dead but the claim appears premature. Along with sex and politics, the deity remains one of mankind's perennial talking points. From interviews, newspaper cuttings and graffiti, Martin Wroe, a church warden, has assembled some of the resulting wisdom.

"I like to collect interesting sayings. The age of the sermon and the carefully prepared lengthy exposition is waning," he says. "Television has taught people only to think in short phrases and sound bites. I am a fan of the sound bite."

"If there were no God, there would be no atheists," said G.K. Chesterton, while Woody Allen, much quoted on the matter, asks: "How can I believe in God when just last week I got my

tongue caught in the roller of an electric typewriter?"

God and money is a recurrent theme. As *The Times* reported recently, a city bullion broker who asked his staff for a motto for his newspaper was offered: "Ingot We Trust". Bo Derek, the actress, says: "Whoever said money can't buy happiness simply hadn't found out where to go shopping."

According to Margaret Thatcher: "No one would have remembered the Good Samaritan if he had only had good intentions. He had money as well." John Paul Getty notes: "The meek shall inherit the earth, but not the mineral rights."

Some of the pithiest comments come from anonymous graffiti: "God is alive — He just doesn't want to get involved" or "Jesus was a typical man, they always say they'll come back but you never see them again".

The book also includes some sayings of Jesus. Mr Wroe says: "I have put some Bible verses in as well because many people do not read the Bible any more."

God: What the Critics Say (Hodder & Stoughton, £5.99) published on April 16

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£60,000 for nurse held in £20 note-row

A NURSE who was detained by a shop manager on suspicion of passing a counterfeit banknote received £60,000 damages in the High Court yesterday.

Eleanor Robinson, aged 47, had sued Dorothy Perkins for damages for wrongful imprisonment, assault, shock, distress and an injured shoulder after she was held at the fashion chain's store in Wood Green, north London, in July 1988.

On the second day of the hearing Dorothy Perkins, which still denied liability, agreed to pay the damages and legal costs of more than £5,000 to the widowed mother of three adult children.

But her counsel, Matthias Kelly, told Mr Justice Tudor Evans and a jury of eight women and four men: "It is a matter of some sadness to Mrs Robinson that the defendants have not had the good grace to apologise to her."

The court heard how Mrs Robinson of Islington, north London, paid for an £8 jacket

with a £20 note. She was taken to an office by the manager, Ian Shaw, and prevented from leaving until police arrived and confirmed that the note was of an old design but valid.

When she had tried to leave there was a struggle, said Mr Kelly. Mr Shaw put an arm round her neck and jerked back her right shoulder, causing her pain. She was pulled back into the room and a security guard stood by the door.

She claimed Mr Shaw forcibly restrained her, injuring her right arm and shoulder. This had affected her nursing career as she had difficulty lifting patients. She had to abandon a course in neurological nursing and had lost the chance of a staff job, she said.

Outside the court Mrs Robinson said: "I am happy and glad it is all over. I have not set foot inside a Dorothy Perkins store again after the humiliating and terrible experience and I never will."



Ship shape: David Goddard, director of Exeter maritime museum, arranges canoes in preparation for its reopening today. The museum, which closed last November, has been rescued by Isca, a charity which owns the collection of 200 traditional working boats

Police had no right to keep raid documents

BY FRANCES GIBB
LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

THE chief constable of Lancashire had no right to retain documents unlawfully seized from the homes of two Preston councillors last year, the High Court said yesterday.

The police had seized the documents under defective warrants, Lord Justice Nolan and Mr Justice Jowitt said. The court said that officers had not produced to the men a list of items sought, and also that the police had no "general right" to keep the material as evidence.

The court was giving its reasons for earlier last month ordering the chief constable, Brian Johnson, to return the documents to Harold Parker, leader of the council, and Frank McGrath, chairman of the controlling Labour group. The items were seized during an enquiry into land deals.

The councillors, awarded costs against the police, plan to seek exemplary damages. The claim is not expected to be heard until after Mr McGrath's trial under the 1968 Theft Act.

Let's be practical. Who hasn't dreamt of the excitement of driving a nippy little sports car only to realise it may cramp more than just their style.

But which racquet-laden, ski-bearing sporty type could resist throwing his all into the open back of a Mazda 323 GT Fastback?

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What Car's slowest depreciators.

In fact the 323 GT Fastback (shown above) has a 1.8 litre 16-valve multi-point fuel injected engine capable of 0-62 in 8.1 seconds off the blocks, and a top speed of 125mph. Not bad for a car with up to 18 cu. ft. of boot space, more than enough room to swing a bat.

For more information why not stop off at your local Mazda showroom or ring 0272 244772, there's more than a sporting chance we'll have what you're looking for.

mazda
Building Excitement

Property slump cuts living costs

BY DAVID YOUNG

THE cost of living has fallen faster during the past year than at any time since 1976 — but the average person is unlikely to have noticed, according to Reward, the pay research specialists.

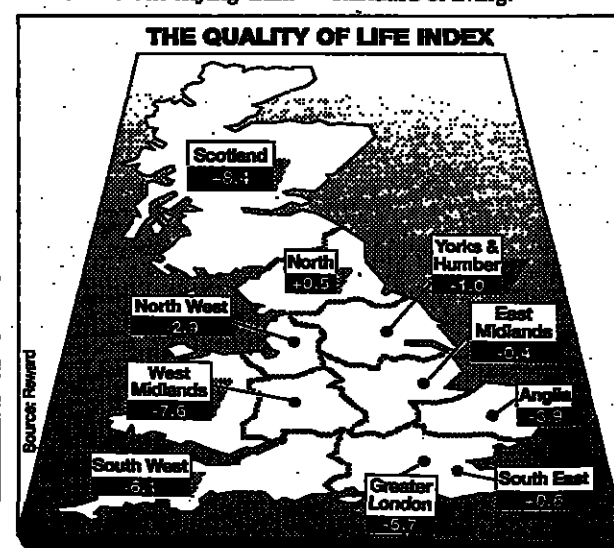
The latest Reward survey of the cost of living shows that the fall in house prices, the cut in mortgage interest rates and lower household rates and poll tax bills over the past year have meant that housing costs have dropped by 17.6 per cent.

That has pushed down the Reward index for Required Incomes — the earnings needed to maintain living standards — by 4 per cent compared with 1991. But despite this significant drop, Reward says that the "man in the street" is unlikely to say that his cost of living has fallen. The reason, says the company, is that the costs of goods and services, excluding housing, have risen by 7.8 per cent since February 1991. This rate almost matches the 7.3 per cent figure for the underlying infla-

tion rate produced by the Central Statistical Office in January. These figures, adds Reward, have been influenced by the 2.5 per cent VAT increase in the 1991 Budget.

Steve Flather of Reward said: "The decrease in housing costs is masking increases elsewhere. Small wonder the man in the street feels that costs are rising. However, with average earnings rising by 7.6 per cent, those in employment are actually holding their own compared to increases in the costs of goods and services, and are experiencing a real increase in standards of living compared to overall costs."

Reward adds that initial calculations based on this year's Budget show that the middle-income range "standard family" on which it bases its calculations would see an overall rise of £24 for the goods and services it uses each year. However, the reduction in its income tax bill means it would need £332 less than last year to maintain its standard of living.



The quality of life index is based on the average salary for a middle manager for the region compared with the national average salary, and the average cost of living for the region compared with the national average. The cost element is subtracted from the salary to produce the index.

New law aims to dump fly-tippers

BY MICHAEL MCCARTHY
ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

EVERY company boss in Britain will need to know from today where his rubbish ends up, or face a heavy fine or even prison. Under a new duty of care in waste management, which comes into effect today, every company will be legally responsible for the proper disposal of its own waste, from its packaging, through transportation to its incineration or burial.

The law, brought in under the 1990 Environment Protection Act, is designed to combat cheap, but possibly illegal, disposal options, in particular use of fly-tippers, who dump in unauthorised places and who are sometimes organised on a criminal basis. There are thought to be a million tons of fly-tipped waste in Greater London at any one time, and other large cities suffer similarly. Firms will have to take steps to satisfy themselves that their waste is being properly taken care of after

it has left them. That means packing it safely, describing it accurately, keeping records of it, checking that the firm that removes it is licensed and that it ends at a suitable site.

The environment department said: "Hitherto the only control has been on disposal sites, which are licensed. Yet a lot of waste may never get there, or be sent to an inappropriate site, or be improperly mixed or described when it does arrive. For the first time we are extending responsibility to producers of waste, and waste carriers."

The "duty of care" was recommended by the Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution in 1985, which in its report quoted the remark of the naturalist Frank Fraser Darling: "Most pollution comes from getting rid of waste at the least possible cost."

Offenders may face an unlimited fine or five-year prison sentence.



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Police had no right to keep raid documents

By FRANCES GIBB
LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

IF chief constables have had no right to keep documents seized from the homes of a person's family, the police have been told by the courts. Lord Justice Goff, in a judgment handed down last night, said that the police had no right to keep documents seized from the homes of a person's family. He said that the police had no right to keep documents seized from the homes of a person's family. He said that the police had no right to keep documents seized from the homes of a person's family.

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slump in costs

By FRANCES GIBB

The cost of living has fallen for the first time in 18 months, according to the latest figures from the Office of National Statistics. The fall was 0.1 per cent, bringing the annual rate of inflation down to 2.9 per cent.

The fall in costs was due to a combination of factors, including a drop in the price of food and a fall in the cost of housing. The Office of National Statistics said that the fall in costs was a welcome sign that the economy was beginning to recover from the recession.

LIFE INDEX

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aims to y-tippers

By FRANCES GIBB

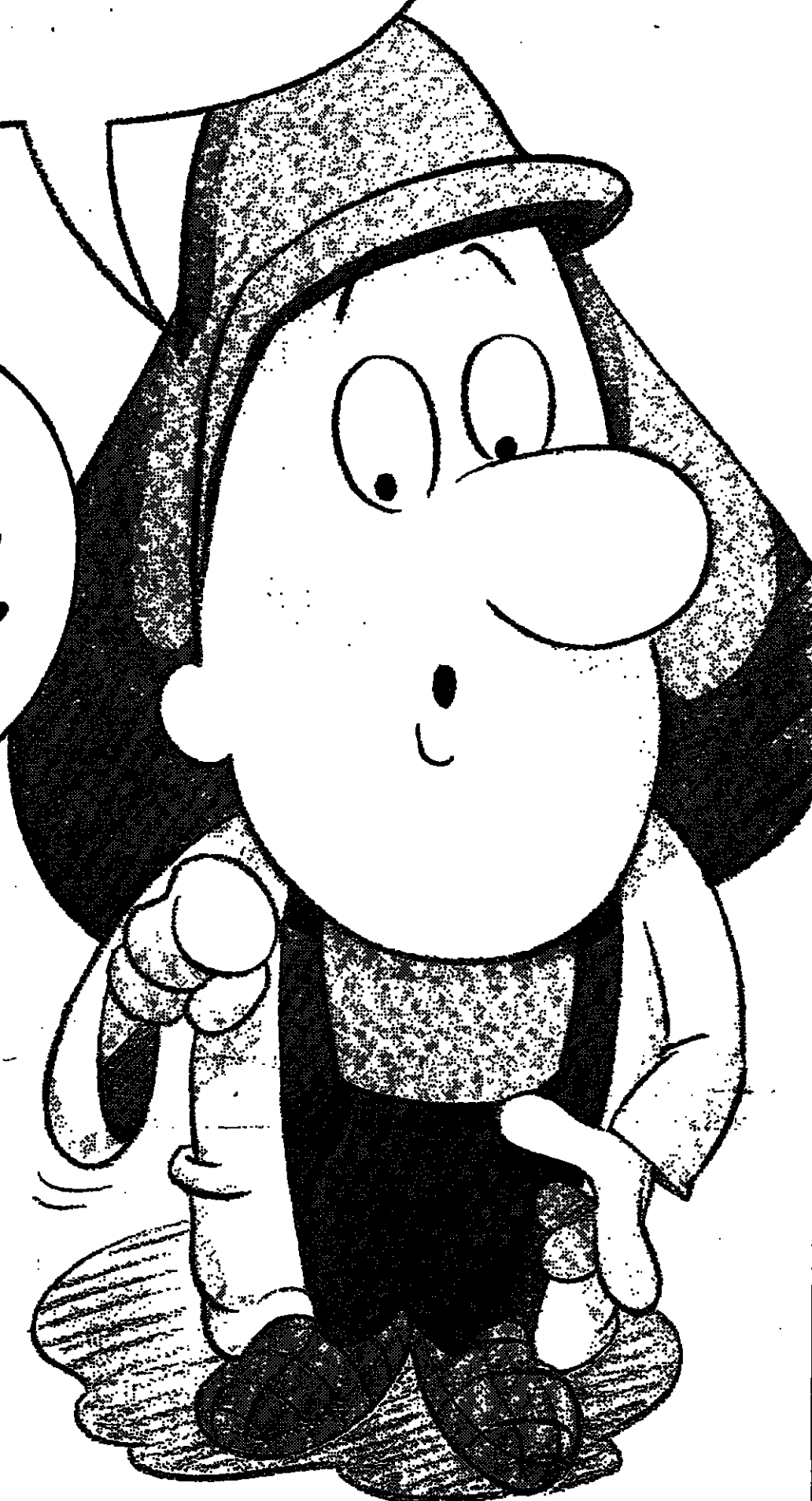
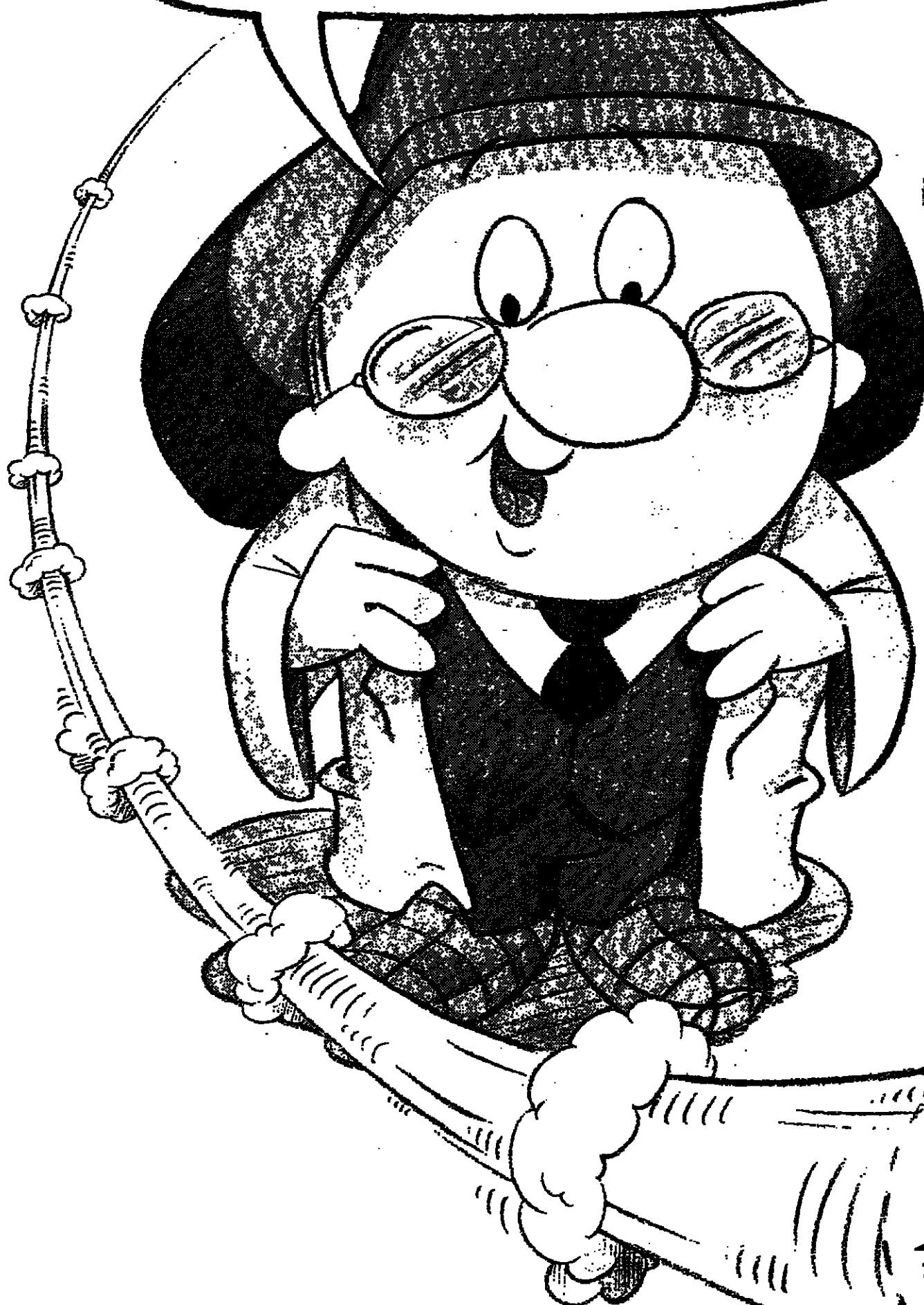
It has been reported that the government is planning to introduce a new law to deal with y-tippers. The law would make it an offence to tip a person who is working in a public place. The government said that the law was necessary to protect the rights of workers and to ensure that they are paid for their work.

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BY NICK NUTTALL, TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

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ELECTION 92

WEDNESDAY APRIL 1 1992

Times/Mori poll

Labour with Smith as leader would be beyond catching

By Robin Oakley, Political Editor

THE Labour party, which has moved into a clear lead in the latest opinion polls, would be invincible in this election if John Smith were its leader instead of Neil Kinnock.

In the latest Mori survey, respondents were asked how they would vote if Mr Smith were party leader instead of Mr Kinnock. The result was a 4.5 per cent swing in Labour's favour.

Instead of Labour leading the Tories by seven points on 42-35, as they now do under Mr Kinnock, their margin under Mr Smith would be 16 points. They would lead by 49 per cent to 33, with the Liberal Democrats down from 19 per cent to 16 per cent.

Mr Smith would keep all the supporters his party has under Mr Kinnock as well as bringing over 5 per cent of those intending now to vote Conservative and 7 per cent of supporters of the Liberal Democrats.

But the Conservatives appear to be suffering more from their record than from any defect in the prime minister's personality. For all the glamour of his campaigning style, the Tories would not be significantly better off with Michael Heseltine as their leader instead of John Major. When Mori asked how people would vote if he had the job, the swing to the Conservatives was a mere 1.5 per cent, cutting Labour's lead from 7 points to 4 at 41-37.

If Mr Heseltine were leader, 3 per cent of the present Conservative supporters would go to the Liberal Democrats while 5 per cent of Labour supporters would come over to the Conservatives and 3 per cent of Liberal Democrats would do so. If Labour were led by Mr Smith and the Conservatives by Mr

Heseltine, party support overall would be Labour 46 per cent, Conservatives 34 per cent and Liberal Democrats 17 per cent, with others on 3 per cent.

Mr Major continues to lead his rivals on leadership qualities. When people were asked to name the most capable prime minister, 38 per cent chose him, compared with 29 per cent who opted for Mr Kinnock and 21 per cent for Paddy Ashdown. But Mr Kinnock has closed the gap from thirteen points at the start of the election to nine points now.

The Liberal Democrats, who launched their campaign to counter the "wasted vote" argument yesterday, appeared initially to have benefited from last week's brouhaha over the Jennifer Bennett Labour election broadcast and to be resisting the traditional squeeze on third parties. But they have slipped a little in the latest Mori survey.

When people were asked in the first Mori/Times survey on March 11-12 how they would vote if they thought that the Liberal Democrats were likely to win in their constituency, the poll finding was Liberal Democrats 35, Labour 33 and Conservatives 29 per cent. By the March 23 survey that was up to Liberal Democrats 41, Labour 28 and Conservatives 29. But in the latest survey, conducted on Monday, the answer to the question was Liberal Democrats 38 per cent, Labour 32 per cent and Conservatives 28 per cent.

One factor in the Liberal Democrat slippage may be that the country is showing a positive distaste for the prospect of a hung parliament. Mori asked simply: "On balance, do you think that a

hung parliament, with no party having an overall majority, would be good or bad for Britain?" More than half those questioned (56 per cent) said that it would be bad for Britain and only a quarter (26 per cent) said that it would be good, with 18 per cent expressing no opinion.

Although Mr Ashdown has insisted that his party is not campaigning for a hung parliament, much attention has focused on the Liberal Democrats' role as potential coalition partners if there were to be one. Conservative supporters are 69-19 against the idea, Labour opposed by 56-25 per cent and even Liberal Democrat supporters are only marginally in favour at 44 per cent to 42 per cent.

Health continues to dominate the list when people are asked to name the two or three issues most important to them in deciding how to vote in the election. It is named by 56 per cent (up 10 per cent since the election began). Education is a clear second on 36 per cent (35), with unemployment third on 23 per cent (27). The repeated Conservative focus on taxation has still lifted it only from 10 per cent to 15 per cent in the issues table.

When people were asked which party had the best policies in different areas, the Conservatives had a margin of only five points over Labour on what they hoped would be the strong points of their campaign, taxation and managing the economy.

They led Labour 36-31 on managing the economy and 38-33 on taxation. The Tories also led by 27 points (48-21) on defence and by 14 points (40-26) on law and order. But Labour led by 26 (46-20) on unemployment, by 23 (49-26) on health care, by 20 (42-22) on replacing the poll tax and by 18 (41-23) on education.

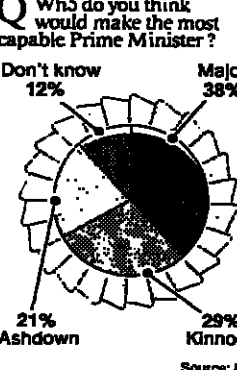
Labour also leads on a subject that the Conservatives had hoped to use in their favour in the election. Mr Kinnock and his party are reckoned to have the best policies on trade unions by 38 per cent to 35 per cent.

Mori interviewed a representative quota sample of 1,080 adults aged 18-plus face to face in 54 constituency sampling points on Monday. Data were weighted by gender, age, class and region.

Labour lead, page 1

CAPABLE PRIME MINISTER?

Q Who do you think would make the most capable Prime Minister?



Public sector pay

Index plan denied by Cunningham

By Robin Oakley

JACK Cunningham insisted yesterday that Labour would not index the pay of public sector workers to ensure that it kept pace with the private sector. His statement came as the party sought to play down the disclosure of a "smoking memo" from one of John Smith's economic advisers.

In a policy paper drawn up in January 1990 and disclosed in yesterday's *Daily Mail*, Andrew Graham, an adviser to the shadow Treasury team, had suggested "where an obvious anomaly on pay exists the aim would be to correct it gradually by, for example, linking it to private sector settlements plus, say, 1 per cent per annum for five years".

Dr Cunningham, Labour's campaign coordinator, came under pressure yesterday to explain how Labour would meet its manifesto promise to "halt the deterioration which has taken place in the pay and conditions of many public service workers". Asked where the money would come from, since Labour was pledged not to increase borrowing further or to increase taxes beyond current plans, Dr Cunningham stuck to the formula that all would be within "strict budgetary controls". This would involve no more funds than those already outlined in the Treasury red books for the next two years.

Of the documents on which the *Daily Mail* story was based, Dr Cunningham said: "They were produced in January 1990 by an academic for discussion. They are not Labour Party policy, they are not endorsed by John Smith and they are not in the manifesto."

He insisted Labour wanted to stop the deterioration in public sector pay which, he said, led to 30 per cent of teachers leaving the profession within a short time of their training. But he declared: "There is no question of indexing. There is no question of secret deals. We do not intend to spend money we can't afford."

Later, at the Tory news conference in London, Chris Patten, the party chairman, described the *Daily Mail*'s story as "shattering" and said the disclosures destroyed Mr Smith's credibility.

"They show the Labour Party has been considering a special secret deal with the trade unions and also cast light on Labour's plans for tax increases," he said.

A Labour party spokesman confirmed that Mr Graham was one of several economic advisers to Mr Smith. But he said none of Labour's treasury team had any knowledge of the proposals, said to be contained in documents which the party had not seen.



On the nose: Denis Healey has a word with a non-voter while campaigning for Clive Efford in Eltham, south London, where Peter Bottomley is the Tory candidate

Poll analysis

Tories in peril of worst defeat since 1945

By Ivor Crewe

IF THE 7 point Labour lead in today's Mori/Times poll materialises on polling day it would signify one of the most extraordinary electoral shifts since the war. Neil Kinnock would be propelled into Downing Street on a massive swing of 9 per cent with an overall majority of 38. His Labour government would be only the third in British history to enjoy a secure five-year majority. The Conservatives would lose 116 seats in the worst rout suffered by any party since they were buried in the 1945 Labour landslide.

Caveats apply to any single poll. The 7 point lead for Labour is two points higher than that given in any other poll this year. It may be on the outer edge of the 3 per cent margin of error and is therefore consistent with the 39 per cent Labour 38 per cent Conservative figures that many recent polls have reported. But it is close to the 41-35-19 figures in the Harris/ITN poll which was also conducted on Monday and the 41-37-18 figures in the ICM/Guardian poll which was carried out yesterday. Indeed, even if Labour's true lead is less than 7 per cent, the trend revealed by Mori is in line with the three preceding polls:

Poll	Week's change
28/3 NOP/MoS	-2 -1
28/3 ASL	-3 -1
30/3 Harris/D. Exp	-3 -1
30/3 Mori/Times	-4 -1
31/3 Harris/ITN	-3 -1
31/3 ICM/Gdn	-2 -1

In all six polls the Conservative vote has slipped about 3 points, the Labour vote has barely changed and the Liberal Democrats have advanced, usually by 2 to 3 points. The Labour lead is larger in the Mori poll than the others because Mori reports a fractionally stronger swing over the week (2.5 per cent rather than 1-2 per cent) from a Conservative base that

was slightly lower (38 per cent rather than 41 per cent).

The significant figure in the Mori poll is not the Labour vote of 42 per cent — seven other campaign polls have put it at least that high — but the Conservative vote of 35 per cent, confirmed by the Harris poll. As Peter Kellner pointed out in the *Independent* on Sunday the lowest support for the party in office reported by any mainstream poll in an election campaign is 36.5 per cent (for the Conservatives in February 1974).

On Sunday the ICM/*Sunday Express* put Conservative support at 36 per cent. Three of the previous four polls had put it at 37 per cent or below. The Conservative tide does appear to be ebbing fast. Its campaign has evidently failed to inspire. A mere 13 per cent think they have run the most effective campaign and even among Conservative voters the proportion is only one in four. What has gone wrong?

Comparison with the Mori/Times poll conducted immediately after the Budget suggests that the Conservatives have not lost the battle of ideas. The campaign has barely altered voters' party preferences on key issues. On health the Labour lead has narrowed from 27 to 23 per cent and on unemployment it has fractionally slipped from 28 to 26 per cent. The Conservatives' slender 5-6 per cent advantage on the economy has stayed the same.

But the Conservatives have comprehensively lost the battle of the agenda. Mori asked respondents to name the two or three most important issues "in helping you to decide" how to vote. Health tops the list, mentioned by 56 per cent, a 10 point increase during the campaign. Education is second (36 per cent), up three points, followed by unemployment (23 per cent).

The Conservative focus on taxes has had some effect — mentions of it have risen from 10 to 15 per cent — but not enough. Other traditional vote-winners for the Conservatives are raising barely a flicker of interest: only 6 per cent mention law and order, 4 per cent defence, 4 per cent Europe and a tiny 1 per cent immigration. Low inflation is important to only 8 per cent.

Ivor Crewe is professor of government at the University of Essex

Health issues

Jennifer's ear gives Labour the edge

By David Lipsey

WHO won the War of Jennifer's Ear? As the dispute about Labour's party political broadcast raged last week, both parties were privately unsure which of them would benefit from the argument. Today's Mori/Times poll, taken this Monday after the dispute had died down, tried to assess the fallout.

Labour's seven-point lead seems striking confirmation that it came out on top. But that can hardly be the direct result of the broadcast. While 30 per cent of the population watched it in full and a further 41 per cent later saw clips of it on television, only 23 per cent of voters agreed that the broadcast "told the truth about the NHS and was an effective broadcast for Labour" (see graphic).

What the broadcast and the ensuing controversy did was to raise the profile of health as an election issue. "Health care is Labour's issue

by a margin of more than two to one. By attacking the Labour broadcast, the Tories helped to keep it top of the political agenda." Bob Worcester, Mori's chairman, says: "Mori's first election poll for *The Times*, on March 11-12, indicated that health was cited by 46 per cent of voters as one of the two or three issues that would be most important in deciding their vote. This week, that figure is up to 56 per cent. Since the broadcast, the Tories have cut Labour's lead as best party on health. In week one, Labour had a 27-point lead over the Tories on the issue. That rose to 30 points last week, but this week, it is down to 23 points. Labour is rated best on the issue by 49 per cent of voters, as against 26 per cent preferring the Tories and 11 per cent the Liberal Democrats (The remainder are "don't knows")."

But that good news for

Tory strategists is more than outweighed by the bad news. They will be shaken by the strength of public suspicion of Conservative intentions on health. John Major vehemently denies plans to privatise health: "No health service privatisation, not today, not tomorrow, not ever while I

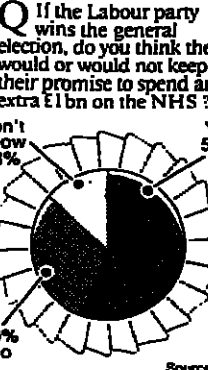
am prime minister," he said at the Conservative party conference in October. But 57 per cent of voters do not believe him. Mr Major has affirmed and reaffirmed that the NHS is safe in his hands, but 53 per cent of voters say that it is not.

By contrast, Labour's NHS pledges seem to be believed. Voters were asked whether Labour would keep its promise to spend an extra £1 billion on the NHS. They said that it would, by a majority of two to one. Those who think health is an important issue are even more likely to believe Labour, with 63 per cent saying the party would keep its promise, compared with 26 per cent saying it would break it.

Judging by Mori's results, the Tories have nine days left in which to sell their health policy to the public or to demolish Labour's. Otherwise, Mr Major may pay the ultimate political price.

LABOUR'S NHS PROMISE

Q If the Labour party wins the general election, do you think they would or would not keep their promise to spend an extra £1 bn on the NHS?



Roaches and rice dominate issues in East End



CAMPAIGN SKETCH

MATTHEW PARRIS

"Good-o!" she yelled to a yuppie in a Hermes scarf walking by St Katherine's Dock. "This is the posh part," Jane grunted, "they don't like the Bangladeshis to live near them but at least they aren't going to vote for the British National party candidate — which is frankly a danger with some of my whites in Bethnal Green."

"The yuppies are in danger the other way: Liberals scurry round like rats telling them that only the Liberal Democrat candidate can get Peter Shore out. So I have to get them up. But separately from the Old East-end whites. But not forgetting the Bangladeshis, of course. But not at the same time. They can't stick each other. Good-o! Off we go!" We were

visiting Betty, on the 19th floor of a 20-storey tower block. Betty was an East-end. Her flat behind a Fort Knox-style door was immaculate. There were Arthur and Frank, her husband and brother-in-law, on the matching floral three-piece suite. "Screwballs, them militant socialists," Arthur said to me. "Roughed Jane up in Bethnal Green market, scattered all her leaflets." Jane glowed with pride. The conversation turns to cockroaches. Betty had written to the council. "They said it was a racistist letter, but I wrote how I feel. Well, it's them sacks of rice, innit? I mean do we keep sacks of rice and onions on the floor?"

"They said it was the central 'eating. Central 'eating! It's an insult to your intelligence. Twenty-three years we've had the central 'eating. Does a cockroach take 23 years to crawl through the central 'eating?" We know better. We know exactly when those roaches started. Jane laid a restraining hand on her arm and asked Betty whether her relatives would vote.

There was also "Aunt Toffee Nancy" — Nancy what kept the toffee stall. She's Tory. Her dog, Dandy, would leave the room whenever Harold Wilson came on the box because Toffee Nancy would start moanin' and shoutin' lies! All lies! And it frightened the dog.

"And 'er mum. Ooh 'er Mum! She's in a home, you know, confused, and Toffee says she don't recognise her own children no more but when she sees that Kinnock on the box she shouts 'Get him off the telly, 'e's contaminatin' the telly'. She tried to belt the Labour can-

didate visitin' the old folks home in Hornchurch, and they rang Toffee up and Toffee says 'I should 'ave told you to lock me mum up when the Labour come round..."

"Then there's... she's a cousin of the Krays. She's a Tory, she's ever so gentle, lives alone with her Pekinese. Suffers something awful from the roaches. 'Ad to be fumigated - twice. She's gone berserk, up the bleedin' pole. It's them Pakis — she pulled me to the window — 'look at that black. Every flat's a Bangladeshi and they're all pregnant...' Jane changed the subject to Betty's childhood working in Brick Lane. "A gal was put to the machines or to the needle. We was 'appy. But it was Yiddishers then. Lovely people. Lovely coats they wore. We miss 'em. Not like the... " Jane Emmerson, tactful Tory that she is, murmured that it was time to go. She did not explain why. She had a visit to the mosque to arrange.

CAMPAIGN QUOTES

"I blame all those Sloanes at Central Office... What do they know about the real world?"

— Teresa Gorman, Tory candidate for Battersea, speaking about her party's campaign

"Hannibal Kinnock is the greatest serial spender in history. His policies will eat you alive."

— David Mellor, comparing Mr Kinnock to the anti-hero of the film *Silence of the Lambs*

"I like the *Tyrannosaurus rex* with the big teeth. It looks a bit like Michael Heseltine."

— Neil Kinnock, watching children making models

"It's all Kinnocks — a great big load of Kinnocks."

— Michael Heseltine on Labour's policies

"They are the party which preached prudence and now have proved to be infidels in their own church."

— Neil Kinnock on the Tories
"Labour and the Tories can't both be right, and I tell you that neither of them is right."
— Paddy Ashdown

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Major
on the

JOHN Major, the leader of the Conservative Party, is seen in a moment of triumph, surrounded by a crowd of supporters. He is wearing a dark suit and a white shirt, and is holding a microphone. The background is filled with people and the sound of cheering. The image is a black and white photograph, and it is part of a news article. The text on the right side of the page is partially cut off, but it appears to be a continuation of the article. The overall tone of the image is one of celebration and success.



Uphill struggle: Paddy Ashdown in Inverness, supporting Scotland's beleaguered Lib Dems

Scots Tories find themselves out on a limb

RIDDELL ON THE ELECTION

Change in Scotland seems inevitable, writes Peter Riddell

IAN Lang, the Scottish secretary, is increasingly looking like the head of a defeated army who faces capture himself. Not only did a new poll yesterday suggest that he was highly likely to lose his seat in Galloway, but the Tories may also have only the fourth largest group of MPs from north of the border at Westminster after April 9.

The Tories have lost their way, unpopular both because of their general record and because they appear to have been left behind by the debate about Scotland's constitutional future. Party leaders are mainly fighting an exercise in damage limitation.

Almost whatever happens in Britain as a whole, the constitutional position of Scotland will change. My main impression from visiting Edinburgh and Glasgow is that the status quo is no longer sustainable and that most Scots no longer believe it can be sustained.

Opinion polls have consistently shown only 20 to 25 per cent favouring no change. Significantly, a survey carried out for the newspaper *Scotland on Sunday* of half those mentioned in *Who's Who* in Scotland shows 41 per cent favouring the status quo. But nearly two in three of the business and financial lead-

ers oppose any change and recently there have been expressions of increasing public alarm from that sector about the disruptive effects.

A move away from Westminster rule is regarded by many as desirable and probable. That is partly because many of those now at the top in Scottish life came through the devolution debates of the Seventies. They have thought about the issue.

Opposition to the status quo begs the key question whether to move to a devolved assembly with tax-raising powers and control over much domestic policy, as favoured by Labour and the Liberal Democrats, or independence within the European Community, as urged by the Scottish nationalists and backed by just over 35 per cent of voters. John Major and Mr Lang have argued strongly for the union, opposing not only independence but also a devolved assembly

as leading to higher public spending as well as inevitable tensions with Westminster.

The Tories' doubts are not irrelevant. After devolution, what would be the position of Scottish MPs at Westminster? Should Scotland's over-representation be ended? (To have constituencies the same

size as in England there would have to be 58 Scottish MPs, not 72.)

In political terms, the Tories have lost the initiative in face of the change of mood. They have tried to isolate Labour by polarising the debate as a choice between union and separation, although that could rebound. The government's unpopularity, underpinned by the failure of

Thatcherism to take root in Scotland, has linked opposition to the Tories with the call for constitutional change.

At present, the Tories stand to be the main short-term losers from the election. Although their vote is within a couple of points of its 1987 level of 24 per cent, the party may suffer from the much greater development of tactical voting in Scotland than in England. The SNP is widely expected to defeat Mr Lang and two of his colleagues, Bill Walker and Sir Nicholas Fairbairn, and the Tories may also be vulnerable to Labour in a couple of seats. Overall, although they could manage the odd surprise gain in the lottery of a four-party system, the Tories may drop to only five or six MPs from their present nine, out of 72.

Labour is expected to consolidate its big advance of 1987 and may raise its total of 49 by at least two or three. On paper, the Liberal Democrats should be in difficulties with their vote now at half the 1987 level of 19 per cent. But many Lib Dem candidates have strong local positions in the Borders, Grampian and the Highlands. So the party may lose only a couple of its ten seats, in Argyll and Inverness. To avoid a further squeeze, the Liberal Demo-

crats are pushing Sir David Steel to the fore.

The big uncertainty is the SNP, whose support is nearly twice its 14 per cent of 1987. The SNP offers a simple message, independence within Europe. Talking yesterday to Jim Sillars, its deputy leader, I had a sense of the uncompromising passion which, by offering a blunt assertion of neighbourhood, has appealed to younger people who dislike the Tories and regard Labour as a distant establishment. Labour candidates admit some vulnerability to the SNP among younger working-class people living on housing estates, al-

though the party has been picking up support from Liberal Democrats and disgruntled Tories.

However, on present figures, the SNP will do well to double its present group of four MPs (minus one former Labour member) and may have fewer votes and MPs than in October 1974.

If the national polls put the Tories ahead this weekend, Labour fears that its vote could drop in the face of an SNP argument that only a strong nationalist showing will change the status quo. Such a rise at Labour's expense could benefit the Tories.

Mr Major has said that he will "take stock" after the election. A serious setback for the Tories would enable him to override the split between hardliners such as Michael Forsyth who have argued for a clear choice between union and independence and those favouring a modified devolved assembly, as Malcolm Rifkind did in the Seventies. Many English Tories are well aware of the advantages to them in reducing the impact of Labour's large number of Scottish MPs.

If Labour wins outright, or with support from the Liberal Democrats, there will be early legislation for a Scottish parliament. In one sense the constitutional arguments will start in earnest then about the relations of such a parliament with Westminster and the implications for the rest of Britain. That in turn could open up a debate about constitutional change for England and Wales. The election in Scotland is not a parochial matter: it concerns everyone in Britain.

How hacks suffer on the stump

BY SHEILA GUNN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

PADDY Ashdown and the media followers who paid four-figure sums to join his odyssey were busy telling the world of the progress of his attempt to revolutionise British politics.

Outside, it was snowing. Through the steamed-up coach windows on the Inverness to Aberdeen road yesterday could be spied dozens of mobile phones being shaken frantically, lap-top computers balanced on squashed knees, cameramen trapped in their seats by ladders and other paraphernalia. Plaintive cries of: "Hello, hello, you're breaking up," could be heard.

Relayed to newspapers and television stations from the bus were details of the party's winning vote strategy, Mr Ashdown's thoughts on the Labour-Tory tax and education plans and thoughts on Scottish independence.

His campaign had been stepped up a gear for the last full week of campaigning. However, most of yesterday's ambitious programme of walkabout and photo-opportunities in Scotland had to be torn up when an aircraft overran Aberdeen runway, closing the airport for six hours.

The campaigning day starts with the 7.15 press conference in London and ends when Ashdown One decamps 40-odd bodies many miles later around midnight at Heathrow's VIP centre. A

sort of cheery stoicism found on a Club 18-30 holiday had set in among the inmates. Maybe this 25,000-mile criss-crossing of the country is far removed from the heart of the campaign and few voters are encountered, let alone converted. But one day it will all end.

"I am increasingly in favour of Scottish independence..." moaned a heavyweight columnist on an awayday with the man seeking to break the mould in British politics. He is not planning to join Mr Ashdown's campaign again.

But the veterans, those assigned to trail Mr Ashdown until polling day, have developed a trench mentality. Living off a succession of airline meals and M&S sandwiches, ecstasy is a rare foray into a fish and chip shop. The logistical problem of reporting Britain's third party dominated conversations.

When not crowded in to a coach, the campaign team flies slowly to remote parts of the country in a twin prop plane. London to Inverness yesterday, for instance, took nearly three hours.

When the Liberal Democrat leader mounts the podium at the evening rallies, he starts: "Wow, only... days left of this wretched Tory government." The hacks echo his cry, merely substituting "... of this wretched election campaign".

Major goes adrift on the Falklands

JOHN Major maintained his assault on the leadership qualities of Neil Kinnock yesterday by contrasting his own new soapbox style with the Labour leader's more closely controlled campaigning approach.

But his attempt to play the Falklands card against the Labour leader, suggesting that he might be ready to give up the sovereignty of the islands, came unstuck when it emerged that Mr Kinnock had been wronged in reports about his stance on their future.

In an historical allusion that may have escaped some of his audience in the centre of Chester, Mr Major invoked the memory of Lenin travelling to St Petersburg to stir up the Russian revolution. Interrupted by a 72-year-old Labour heckler, Mr Major said: "It is nice to see a member of the Labour party that does not have a sealed train, secreted from the rest of the world."

He was on thin ground, however, when he attacked Mr Kinnock over the Falklands. Referring to a report in *The Daily Telegraph*, he criticised the Labour leader for suggesting that a Labour government might consider a change in the status of the islands. He told a crowd of Tory supporters and shoppers: "I wonder what message that gives to the soldiers, airmen and navy men who fought in that war and to the people who still live there." Mr Kinnock had been reported

John Major had a mixed day on his travelling soapbox yesterday, reports Philip Webster

as having said that Labour would be prepared to consider a change in the status of the Falklands provided there were enforceable security guarantees.

Later, however, it emerged that Mr Kinnock had been doing no more than restating long-standing party policy because in remarks which had not been reported he had also said: "There cannot be anything done without the active consent of the people of the Falkland Islands. Too much has been expended, loyalty is too great, the status is too important for there to be any abandonment of the needs and desires of the people of the Falkland Islands."

Mr Major gave another forceful performance on his travelling soapbox, but he was woefully short of serious hecklers until the elderly Tom Brannigan obliged with a cry of "rubbish". Mr Major gladly seized on his interruption to welcome him. "With a bit of luck he will follow me wherever I and my soapbox go. Whenever I go between now and April 9 this soapbox is coming with me. There is no way people will stop the Conservative message getting right on to the streets."



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Constituency profile

Essex woman keeps Billericay in touch with the old style

BY BILL FROST

DEEP in the Essex flatlands a Tory loose cannon yesterday launched a sustained and thunderous bombardment on the spin doctors and brat-pack advisers at Conservative Central Office who have taken all the fire and verve from the party's campaign.

Teresa Gorman, the Conservative candidate for Billericay, does not believe in subtly coded messages. "I blame all those Sloanes at Central Office — all the Amandas, all the Timothys. What do they know about the real world," she thundered.

"It's all so boring — figures and statistics. The voters don't want that. We should be telling them more about how we will restore living standards and warning them about the nightmare in prospect if Labour wins."

Mrs Gorman, defending a majority of almost 18,000 at the last election, clams up diplomatically when asked if she has serious reservations about John Major's gentle touch. "He does need to get

1987 result: Mrs T E Gorman (C) 33,741 (54.9%); M Birch (SDP/All) 15,755 (25.6%); R Howitt (Lab) 11,942 (19.4%); Conservative majority 17,986 (29.3%).



his personality across more forcefully. People like strong leadership. Quite clearly there has been a change of style that they will have to get used to. As a pre-Thatcher Thatcherite, I keep Billericay in touch with the old style."

Billericay, said to boast one of the most right-wing electorates even in Essex, has neither forgiven nor forgotten those responsible for Mrs Thatcher's departure. "Michael Heseltine, although he might be a forthright speaker, is not liked here because of what he did to Margaret."

"Mrs Thatcher squeezed all the poison out of this country: tamed the trade unions, brought interest rates down, reduced inflation and gave us a sense of confidence that made people feel good," Mrs Gorman said. Out on the stump in a fluorescent blue anorak, Mrs Gorman was greeted with the brand of deference normally bestowed on visiting royalty as she arrived at a pre-school play group threatened with closure before her intervention. "They think I am wonderful here," she explained.

The Gorman battle bus, a large Ford Transit decked out with balloons and election posters everywhere but the windscreen, was greeted with waves and smiles across the constituency. Essex jokes infuriate the Tory candidate as she surveys Billericay. "It's the Timothys and Amandas at Central Office again, the descendants of robber barons who stripped the peasantry of their land. They think it is clever to laugh at these people, at new money and hard work," she snapped.

Billericay's loose cannon does not reserve her ordinance for Central Office Sloanes alone. The Treasury, too, is in the firing line. Walking round an under-used business park, Mrs Gorman suggested that for every firm that collapsed a mandarin should be given the long white envelope. "Well soon run out of top Treasury civil servants that way, but that would be no bad thing at all."

Mrs Gorman is not too

fond of the EC either. "Most people don't give a stuff about Europe. They wonder what we are doing cosying up to people who have made an art out of excluding our goods."

Brian Sparks, who runs a fax and car telephone leasing business in the constituency, is one of many traders who shares Mrs Gorman's rumbling disquiet over Tory campaign strategy. "John Major needs to become a bit more of a bastard if we are to win. As for Lamont, he is too weak and the media regularly make mincemeat of him."

"Let's concentrate on nailing Labour's loony left, reminding people what the unions would get up to under Kinnock. At the moment the Tories are just a bunch of wet nellys. It would have been so different if Mrs Thatcher was still there," he said.

Frank Bellard, the Liberal Democrat candidate, acknowledges that Mrs Gorman is a doughy fighter. He believes, however, that with an increased number of business failures in Billericay his party is poised to embarrass the Tories. "The response on the doorstep has been excellent. We are more than encouraged. We could win this time."

But if posters in windows are any measure of party support, both the Liberal Democrats and Labour's Alison Miller have much glass to cover before April 9. Mrs Gorman's face is everywhere from council flats to rambling Dallas-style bungalows with Jaguars and Mercedes crowding the drives.

"There are more beautiful houses in Billericay than anywhere in the world I know outside Long Island, New York," Mrs Gorman said.

"The Amandas and Timothys may sneer, but these are people who have worked hard and deserve continuing success under a Tory government that stands up for them."



Pit stop: the Rev Ian Paisley, with his son, also called Ian, making a brief refuelling stop yesterday during a busy day's door electioneering in his constituency, Antrim North. In 1987, the Democratic Unionist Party leader had a majority of 23,234

Paisley roars his way to victory

BY EDWARD GORMAN, IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

1987 result: The Rev I R K Paisley (DUP) 28,383 (68.7%); S Farren (SDLP) 5,149 (12.5%); G Williams (All) 5,140 (12.4%); S. Reid (PSF) 2,633 (6.4%); DUP majority: 23,234 (56.2%).

YOU have to be fit to keep up with the Rev Ian Paisley. At just 65, he is in fighting form, relishing yet another election — his fifteenth of various kinds — and another he will surely win hands down like all the others but one.

Mr Paisley is an old pro when it comes to electioneering. He storms round his constituency, stomping his way up near bungalow drives, his voice booming a terrifying greeting as he approaches.

In rural north Antrim where he is defending a 23,000 majority, he does not waste much time discussing politics on the doorstep because, as he points out, people here have made their minds up long ago on the key issues

of the day. Instead, he humours the housewives with his huge presence and his irrepressible sense of fun.

"You will be voting for my wife's husband on April 9, won't you?" he instructs cooing old ladies. To others he demands a wee cross on the ballot paper for the DUP — it's the kiss of life, he says with a chuckle.

Then he is off in the downpours, leaving constituents stunned in his wake, trudging like this at election time and his health tip for all those

Randalsown, dressed in a brown raincoat and a deer-stalker hat topped off with a brown ribbon. Underneath, he is wearing a dark suit and black shoes and, for some reason, white socks.

Running to keep up with him and soaked to the skin, I suggest this might not be the best weather for doorstepping. Not a bit of it, he replies. "This is a hard day's work."

He does any exercise he can get, like this at election time and his health tip for all those

aspiring leaders of Northern Ireland fundamentalist Protestants is a glass of cider vinegar every morning, taken with a teaspoon of honey.

By now we have reached Emma Black's house. She virtually shrieks when she sees the "big man" trundling up to her front door. "You will be voting for me on the Thursday week," he booms. Oh yes, she will.

Mrs Black has a soft spot for Mr Paisley. Sixteen years ago he sorted out the planning permission for the house she now lives in and she has been grateful to him ever since. But now she has a new problem, the drainage in the drive.

"Fix you the water in the drive, or I won't be voting for you," she says in her clipped Antrim accent, laughing at her impertinence. "She is a great woman," Mr Paisley recalls later. "She used to bake bread. I'll get some grates to drain the drive, you'll see."

Then we stop for tea and cakes at the farmhouse home of the DUP's local organiser in the area. Mr Paisley is tickled pink with his campaign poster, a pile of which he has brought with him for distribution in the village. They show him with clenched fist outstretched in a pose adopted by Edward Carson, the great Unionist leader of the early years of this century. The shot was reconstructed last week especially for the election. Underneath are the words: "We will not have Dublin rule. For God and Ulster."

I suggest he looks a bit like Lenin at the barricades during the October Revolution. "Typical of a man from *The Times*," he replies. He recalls being invited to lunch at the newspaper in the early Seventies. It was a time, he said, when he still had all his teeth. He remembers the journalists trying to tame him, to "clean me up," they failed. "I was very incoherent that day," he said, "and just cracked jokes and laughed at them and ha ha — they couldn't get me, they couldn't get my throat."

Soapbox returns in hi-tech campaign

The soapbox is back, but its role is more symbolic than practical, writes Philip Howard

IT IS an agreeable irony that the humble old soapbox is emerging as the most potent stage prop in an election meant to be dominated by soundbites, portable telephones, photo ops, and stage sets like flashy television chat shows. The prime minister climbed up on his soapbox again at Chester yesterday, to demonstrate his populism and virility, qualities the soapbox quacks felt he was not getting across by newer-fangled media.

Soapbox stands to platform as tub stands to pulpit. The former are radical and vulgar emblems; the latter are establishment. Since they organised themselves into civil society, humans have erected wooden platforms from which orators could stand out above the common herd at the same time making them vulnerable to heckling and rotten fruit. The Romans used rostra, the beaked prows of ships they had taken from the Antiates in 338 BC, as pulpits for their orators in the forum at Rome. Rostrum is still an old-fashioned English name for a gent's soapbox.

The British devised three wooden erections for orators who wanted to talk a lot without much interruption. These are the soapbox or tub, the portable stage of itinerant actors, and the hangman's ladder. The soapbox that arrived in England in the 17th century was merely a small container with a lid found on wash-stands, and useless for any but Lilliputian oratory. The soapbox solid enough to stand on emerged about a century ago, almost certainly in the United States. The first recorded written citation is in Jack London's novel of 1907, *The Road*: "I get up on a soapbox to trot out the particular economic bees that buzz in my bonnet." Soap, being heavy, needs a solid wooden crate to hold the bars. The soapbox was a free podium or dais available to Joe Soap (no relation) in any corner drug-store. Thereafter soapbox oratory became a common term on both sides of the Atlantic. Soapboxes can still be seen in action at Speakers' Corner and Tower Hill at luncheon, though today's unofficial orators tend to have folding metal platforms with steps.

In England tub, as a contemptuous term for a pulpit for riff-raff nonconformists and hedge-preachers, goes back to the Civil War. It carries connotations of bombast and tub-thumping, but preachers as potent as John Bunyan and the Wesleys used tubs. In 1992, the soapbox has become a designer soapbox, and its use is symbolic more than practical. Its main purpose is as a demotic symbol amid the hubbub for speech-bites and photo-flashes on the television election news. Never underestimate the power of an old symbol.

Heseltine cuts a dashing figure

BY JOE JOSEPH

JUST in case John Maples was being too genteel about putting over the Conservatives' case in his marginal southeast London constituency, Michael Heseltine dropped by yesterday to make it clear to the voters of Lewisham West that business was business and unless they backed the boy Maples then he would have to get tough. No more Mr Nice Guy. He had brought David Mellor with him.

Mr Maples, an old-style Tory who is being shoved in front of more and more cameras and microphones because colleagues see him as the human face of the Treasury, had spent the morning ambling down Cranston Road, a terrace of three-bedroom houses in Forest Hill. He shook hands with whoever was at home mostly pensioners, who liked him, the unemployed, who didn't, and an underdressed man who claimed to be doing some unspecified shift work.

Mr Maples smiles well, punctuating his easy pavement chat with wild zig-zagging sprints across the street every time one of his

1987 result: J C Maples (C) (below) 20,995 (46.2%); J P Dowd (Lab) 17,223 (37.9%); Mrs S C Titley (L/All) 7,247 (15.9%); Conservative majority: 3,772 (8.3%).



helpers finds somebody at home, hoping to reach the constituents before they shut their doors again.

Mr Maples has a majority of 3,772, and "a couple of thousand have dropped off the voters' register because of their refusal to pay the poll tax and that must work in our favour. They were probably Labour voters." So he is cautiously optimistic about holding his seat. But there are

basic rules of politics that improve the odds: "Always close the gate behind you," Mr Maples confided, aware that closed front gates and a courteous manner win more votes than lectures about environment policy.

Then, arriving with all the urgency of Dymo-Rod to the scene of a drain-clearing emergency, the Smiling-Talking-Greeting-Walking-Living-Photo-Opportunity Mr Heseltine descended on Forest Hill and got straight to work. He shook his first doubter's palm within two steps of leaving his Daimler.

"Hello, I'm Michael Heseltine. I hope you'll be supporting John Maples, your Conservative candidate. Hello. Very Good. Hello. Where do we go? Yes. Yes. Hello. This is a copy of Labour's tax plans. I've no doubt that people who vote Labour will be paying more taxes. Hello. Jolly good."

While Mr Maples thinks gate-closing is next to godliness, to Michael Heseltine silence is next to socialism. He talks constantly and walks in photogenic angular poses, missing a beat only once, when a well-wisher handed

him a copy of *Hygiene Today*. Moving his entourage to Catford shopping centre, he continued his odd gait, smile and rat-a-tat chatter, walking into Fortissima-covered sandwich bags as if that's the sort of thing he does most days. "Hello, I'm Michael Heseltine. Vote For John Maples."

Mr Heseltine lingers just long enough to shake hands, smile, mention his and Maples' names and then walk on. Maybe 15 seconds in all. The fastest endorser in politics. It leaves many voters bewildered and the chatty ones unsatisfied. He enters a crowd like a ram let loose in a field of ewes in season, spending just enough time with each to tap them, then moving on to the next, doing a serviceable job but not dilly-dallying when it done.

Mr Maples was suddenly part of the Forest Hill scenery, quietly consoling those voters who were left wanting more. He learned another rule of politics: along with closing gates and talking constantly, a rising Conservative star should think twice before acting with children, animals or Michael Heseltine.

VOX POP by Peter Barnard

People power on the end of a telephone

Norman Lamont was telephoned yesterday by a woman from Grantham, but not the woman from Grantham, with a question about inflation. As part of his answer, the Chancellor trotted out the familiar boast: that British inflation is lower than that of Germany.

At which point Jonathan Dimbleby intervened to say that surely the British rate excluding mortgages was being compared with the German rate including mortgages. "That is correct," Mr Lamont replied. "So you are comparing bananas with apples," Dimbleby said. This was the first time Mr Lamont had admitted that the comparison with Germany was not strictly valid, but it was not the first time that a phone-in programme, in this case *Election Call*, had wrong-footed a politician.

On Monday, John Prescott admitted on the programme that prices were likely to rise as a consequence of the proposed minimum wage. And last week, Michael Howard, the employment secretary, said

that the training budget had indeed been cut.

Election Call goes out simultaneously on BBC1 and Radio 4 every morning. Eighteen telephonists are each fielding an average of 30 to 35 calls every day, so up to 630 callers are competing to ask one of about a dozen questions that get on air.

I have not always been a fan of phone-ins, but there is no doubt that the technique obliges politicians to answer the questions that are put to them. Politicians often get away with fobbing off journalists in set-piece interviews with replies that start "I think the real question is..." That sometimes works because the public dislikes journalists and politicians more or less equally, so a zealous interviewer can be accused of bullying.

Ordinary people are voters and voters have to be respected. Dimbleby told me after yesterday's programme: "I'm certain politicians are acutely aware that the viewer or listener has thought through the question and expects a direct answer. There is also a double-whammy operating, so to speak, in that if the question is avoided I am there to pick it up. Politicians definitely behave differently on a phone-in. They have to be more courteous because people will judge the politician partly on how they behave towards members of the public."

There is further benefit from a much more arbitrary structure. *Election Call* starts at 9.05. The telephone lines are open at 8am and calls continue throughout the programme, with producers editing them live. So whereas a set-piece interview has a logical intellectual progression which in some ways helps the person being interviewed, questions on a live phone-in are coming in an arbitrary way, with the politician having no prior warning.

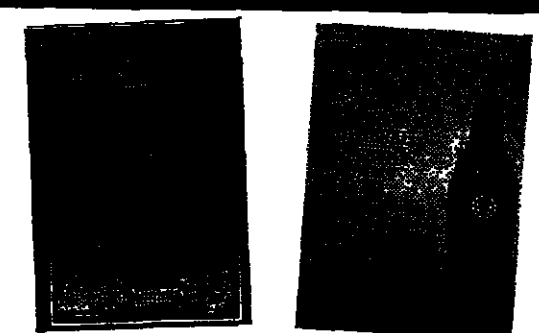
"The phone-in is really the modern equivalent of the hustings," Dimbleby says. "In some ways phone-ins are better because at a public meeting a skilled politician

can turn a heckler to his advantage, using the rest of the audience as support. But a phone-in is just the caller and the politician."

Channel 4's *Midnight Special* election programme is also using phoned-in questions, with three lines jammed for most of the show. However, the impact is lessened because the questions are taken down and passed to Vincent Hanna, the presenter. On Sunday's BBC1 programme, *On The Record*, Dimbleby will interview all three party leaders and on three days next week the leaders are appearing separately on *Election Call*. It will be interesting to see if the public can extract from them more than the professionals can. With the parties so close, a gaffe like Margaret Thatcher's flummoxed response to a caller in 1983 about the sinking of the Belgrano could, with subsequent coverage in news bulletins, give people-power real significance.

Media coverage, L&T section, page 6

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DOD

Big...

Teacher unions attack Clarke for 'outrageous slur' on profession



Straw: "Remark shows extraordinary blindness"

A suggestion by Kenneth Clarke that teachers opposed to the Conservatives were "voting for a quiet life" provoked an angry response from Labour and the big teacher unions yesterday.

The outburst by the education secretary came as he responded to an ICM poll which indicated that 51 per cent of the country's 450,000 teachers would vote Labour and that only 20 per cent would support the Tories.

Mr Clarke said: "I hope that the teachers voting against us are not all voting for a quiet life or to be allowed to keep on with practices which have not been successful or that they are fearful of being more exposed on the performance of their own schools to public scrutiny." The education secretary

The education secretary's insinuation that teachers who support Labour are voting for a quiet life has caused uproar, Nicholas Wood reports

also said that Tory-voting teachers were those with the greatest commitment to raising standards in the classroom.

"The teachers who are supporting us are those who want to get back to teaching the basics properly, who know that a sensible way of teaching does involve correcting the pupils' errors, imparting to them knowledge, testing their progress and acquiring skills."

Jack Straw, Labour's education spokesman, said Mr Clarke's re-

marks were an astonishing insult to teachers and reminiscent of his gaffe as health secretary about "doctors feeling for their wallets" whenever confronted with change, which had enraged the medical profession. "It shows extraordinary blindness by Mr Clarke about the effect of his period in office in alienating what was traditionally a Conservative profession."

The Conservatives had been the most popular party among teach-

ers in 1974, 1979 and 1983, Mr Straw added. "It shows great ineptitude by him. A lot of Tory MPs who lose their seats next Thursday in marginal constituencies will be very angry with him."

Doug McAvoy, general secretary of the National Union of Teachers, said that Mr Clarke's remarks were an outrageous slur on the teaching profession. "Yet again, we have ill-informed criticism from Mr Clarke of the teachers who have struggled against all the odds and his refusal to fund the schools properly."

"Teachers have never had a quiet life. Their criticism of the Conservative party is based on its inadequate funding for children, the fact that the government has

consistently refused to fund its own reforms, to allow the schools to have the books and resources and teachers they need. Instead of that we have had teachers being made redundant and rising class sizes."

"Mr Clarke cannot suggest that only 20 per cent of teachers care about their children's education. It's difficult to find a teacher who doesn't care. His words like these that are making teachers turn against the Conservative party."

Nigel de Gruchy, general secretary of the National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers, said that Mr Clarke was talking unadulterated rubbish. "It tells us more about Mr Clarke than about teachers. If he goes on like this, he will lose the 20 per

cent who still seem to want to vote Conservative."

At the Tories' morning press conference, Mr Clarke said that on the question of money alone, Britain had just about the best education system in the world. Spending as a proportion of gross national product was 4.6 per cent, higher than Japan and Germany.

He argued that what differentiated the Conservatives from the other parties was their concentration on raising standards. Measures such as the national curriculum, examination league tables, regular national testing and a wider variety of schools were aimed at reversing the harm done by 20 years of socialist dogma and progressive teaching methods.

Labour schools pledges £448m boost for books and buildings

BY JILL SHERMAN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

LABOUR unveiled a £448 million programme yesterday to modernise schools and provide more books, smaller classes and better buildings. Much of the money, which is for England alone, would be spent on repairing crumbling buildings and ensuring that pupils no longer had to use outside lavatories.

The money, part of the £600 million that Labour has pledged to spend on education over the next 22 months, would double spending on school books, fund a national reading programme and provide extra scientific equipment. Labour would also introduce regulations to outlaw classes of more than 40 children.

Launching the costed plans in Salford, Greater Manchester, yesterday, Neil Kinnock said that pupils were getting neither the stability nor the support they needed after 13 years of ceaseless experiments and continued under-investment. Britain was investing a lower proportion of national wealth in education than in 1979.

"Britain's schools are more and more dependent on funds raised by parents and more and more divided by schemes that favour a tiny minority and disadvantage the rest," the Labour leader said. "These realities of a two-tier schooling system mock the very idea of the classless society that the Conservatives say they want to create." It was time to get back to the basics — more qualified teachers, new books and better buildings, he said.

Jack Straw, shadow education secretary, who shared the platform, gave a detailed breakdown of how the £448 million would be spent. He was deliberately vague on how much of the remainder would go to Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland and how much would go into a contingency fund.

A Labour government would boost present capital spending on schools by more than a fifth, injecting £100 million into an emergency fund for immediate repairs, he said. The Audit Commission has estimated the maintenance backlog at £2 billion while local education authorities say the figure is nearer £4.5 billion.

Within the first 12 months, Labour would add £80 million, £10 per child, to the existing budget for books of £95 million. A further £20 million would go towards developing a national programme to help to raise reading standards and £60 million would go on extra scientific equipment. Labour would also set up a £10 million fund to help to pay for

thousands of "mentor" teachers to help guide new teachers in their probationary year.

Other measures in the £448 million package include a £58 million childcare scheme, a self-financing plan to scrap student loans and restore grants and a further £20 million to supplement the student vacation hardship scheme and to provide targeted housing assistance.

Labour is committed to providing nursery education for all three and four year olds within eight years. About £50 million would be provided in the first year to fund 20,000 places by transferring money earmarked for city technology colleges.

However an estimated 250,000 places would have to be provided by 2000 to fulfil Labour's pledge, which has yet to be fully costed.

Challenged over the Liberal Democrats' pledge to boost education spending by £2 billion, funded by an extra 1p on income tax, Mr Straw said that such proposals were made in fairyland by a party that would not form a government.

Leading article, page 15



School inspector Kenneth Baker, the home secretary, on an afternoon visit to the Zakariya Muslim girls high school in Batley, after a walkabout in the West Yorkshire town yesterday. Batley and Spens is held by the Conservatives with a 1,362 majority

Repairs will have to wait

BY JOHN O'LEARY

LABOUR'S immediate spending plans for education would do no more than dent most of the problems the party is trying to address. Only outside lavatories and classes of more than 40 pupils would disappear within a year.

Some of the party's commitments would not be fulfilled in a full term of a new parliament. The guarantee of a nursery place for every three and four-year-old whose parents wanted it will not apply until the year 2000, for example, and there is no date offered for achieving the party's target of maximum class sizes of 30 pupils.

The extra £600 million Labour promises over the first 22 months of a new government would make little impression on an overall education budget of more than £30 billion. Although statistics include no estimates of future local authority spending on education, education department spending alone is already expected to rise by another £800 million in the next two years.

Some of the ten pledges for English education in yesterday's statement, *It's Time to Modernise our Schools*, claim only to make a start on particular areas of funding. Jack Straw, Labour's education spokesman, agreed yesterday that it would take years to clear the backlog of school repairs that is acknowledged by all parties.

Pupil-teacher ratio Parents want smaller classes

BY JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

WHILE the parties swap plans for reform of school inspection and champion the latest scheme for slow readers, parents' prime concern remains the size of classes.

Two-thirds of parents interviewed for a Channel 4 poll rated a cut in class sizes as the most important change needed in primary schools. The proportion rose to 71 per cent among Tory voters.

Labour took up the theme

yesterday in its press conference on education, but none of the parties has been prepared to put a date on progress towards maximum classes of 30. Pressure groups led by the Campaign for State Education have been lobbying hard for such a limit.

Jack Straw, Labour's education spokesman, has promised to ban classes of 40 or more in his first year in office, reducing the maximum to 35

within five years. The number of pupils per teacher fell during the Eighties, as the products of the baby boom left school, but the past two years have seen the start of a new rise. Mr Straw said that, compared with three years ago, 100,000 more pupils were in classes of over 30.

Kenneth Clarke, the education secretary, has dismissed class size as a minor issue. He said that only 9,000 children were in classes of 40 and 80,000 in classes of more than 35.

Almost a quarter of children in English primary schools are in classes of more than 30. In Scotland, the size of infant classes is limited by law to 33. Denmark and The Netherlands have maximums of 27 pupils per class, and no European member of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development has as large an average class size as the United Kingdom.

The importance of small classes remains a matter of dispute among educationists, but the increasing popularity of independent schools for young pupils suggests that parents are convinced.

	% of 17-year-olds in education/training 1987-8	Public spending on education as % of GDP 1987
Australia	74.3	5.3
Austria	n/a	5.9
Belgium	92.7	5.1
Canada	75.7	6.5
Denmark	78.9	7.5
Finland	90.6	5.3
France	79.2	5.6
Germany	81.7	4.2
Greece	55.2	2.7
Ireland	86.4	5.8
Japan	89.3	5.0
Luxembourg	83.4	4.1
Netherlands	79.2	7.0
New Zealand	49.3	5.4
Norway	75.2	6.8
Sweden	83.1	7.2
Switzerland	84.8	5.0
Turkey	34.1	1.8
United Kingdom	52.1	5.0
United States	89.0	4.8
Yugoslavia	68.3	3.6

Source: OECD

Defence strategy

Big parties unsure on forces costs

BY MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE government threw defence into the election arena last night with a party political broadcast devoted totally to Conservative defence strategy for the Nineties.

Defence has not been a dominating political issue in the election campaign partly because of the belief that the policies of the main parties are now so close they do not merit the same dissection applied to the health service and tax policies. The Conservatives, however, are trying to point out the differences, raising the old accusation that defence is not safe in Labour's hands.

Labour has come a long way towards bridging the gap between the two main parties on the key areas of defence strategy. However, there remains one fundamental question that needs answering by both sides. Since there appears to be no prospect of an early peace

dividend arising from the ending of the Cold War, how will the next government fund its defence programme?

Tom King, the defence secretary, says that the proposed reorganisation of the armed forces under his *Options for Change* review, has been fully costed. The army is to be cut from 156,000 to 116,000 and the number of infantry battalions reduced from 55 to 38. He has promised smaller but better equipped forces. However, long-term costings are kept secret and procurement programmes may suffer delays, as they have in the past, when the Treasury is looking for savings.

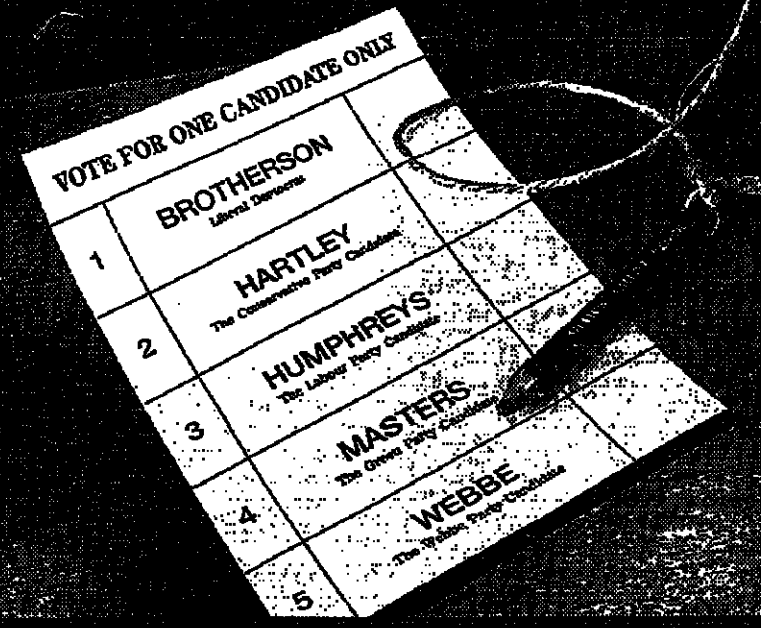
Martin O'Neill, Labour defence spokesman, has confirmed that a Labour government will hold a six-month review before announcing its plans for the armed forces. But last week he said he did not believe there would be fur-

ther cuts in the forces. With Labour's plans for big spending in other areas such as education and health, it may be asked where the extra cash will come from to keep the armed services properly manned and equipped?

The Conservatives accuse Labour of planning a 27 per cent cut in the defence budget, which they say would be catastrophic for the armed services and for the defence industry. That figure, however, is based on resolutions passed at Labour party conferences which called for the defence budget to be reduced to the average level of that of other European members of Nato. Neil Kinnock and Mr O'Neill have said that conference wishes would be ignored.

The truth is, that unless the country's economy picks up, the defence budget is likely to come under increasing strain whichever party wins the election.

soon people with a mental handicap will have their turn to discriminate



On the 9th of April people with a mental handicap will be exercising their right to vote.

Like everyone else, their cross will go next to the candidate who's going to do the most for them.

A candidate who'll fight tooth and nail for an anti-discrimination Act and the full implementation of the 1986 Disabled Persons Act.

An improvement of provisions for community care, education and employment will also win their vote.

In our Mencap manifesto, which we've sent to all candidates, we have spelt out the views of people with a mental handicap.

Candidates who don't give these views some thought, may find out just what it's like to be discriminated against.

mencap

Bonn defence chief quits over export of tanks to Turkey

FROM IAN MURRAY IN BONN

GERHARD Stoltenberg, one of Germany's trusted cabinet members, decided to step down as defence minister yesterday after failing to follow orders to prevent the delivery of 15 tanks to Turkey. He is the third German defence minister to resign under a cloud since 1955, when the Bundeswehr was first allowed to rearm.

It is an indication of how difficult and sensitive the portfolio is in postwar Germany. His successor will be Volker Rühe, the forceful secretary-general of the ruling Christian Democrats, who represents a new generation of German politicians.

Pressure for Herr Stoltenberg's resignation has been building up since news leaked out last week that the tanks had been delivered in defiance of instructions from a Bundestag committee. The minister, with a solid reputation for integrity and efficiency, found himself publicly accused of either dishonesty or incompetence. His critics alleged that he had either deliberately ignored the Bundestag or did not know what



Rühe: hint of change in Kohl's stolid cabinet

was going on inside his own ministry.

His damaged reputation suffered even more on Monday when he refused to accept personal responsibility for what had happened and, instead, accepted the resignation of the senior civil servant in charge of the deal. He said yesterday that he had done nothing wrong but that after extensive consultations with friends and party colleagues he had come to the conclusion that he had to resign in the interests of the party. At a

press conference, Helmut Kohl, the German chancellor and CDU leader, backed his one-time rival. The decision to go was a personal one, the chancellor said, and the party would certainly have supported Herr Stoltenberg if he had decided to stay.

However, after reading the widespread press condemnation of Herr Stoltenberg's behaviour yesterday, the chancellor must have been relieved to see him go. His reluctant departure may have been in the party's long-term interest but the affair cannot have helped the CDU's already slim chances in Sunday's state election in Schleswig-Holstein, where he served as prime minister for over a decade.

The promotion of Herr Rühe to such a senior post may be indicative of a change of style in Herr Kohl's stolid cabinet. The new defence minister, aged 49, has a tougher, right-wing approach than older members of the coalition cabinet. He has made no secret of the fact that he wants to inherit the foreign ministry from Hans-Dietrich Genscher before long and he is not shy of tramping on a few toes to get what he wants.

His combative style is very different from that of Herr Stoltenberg, aged 63, who has shown an almost aristocratic politeness throughout his long political career. His departure, after 25 years as federal cabinet minister or state prime minister, marks the end of an era. He was only 37 in 1965 when he was brought into the cabinet as minister for science and research. Herr Kohl at that time was no more than the local party chairman in the Rhineland Palatinate.

When Herr Kohl out-maneuvred him to become chancellor he was entrusted with the all-important finance ministry where he was initially highly successful. He masterminded a complicated tax reform package, reduced government borrowing to a record low and, for a while, drove inflation down to a negative growth rate. He was well in front of Herr Kohl in opinion polls. However, the tax reforms proved difficult to implement, government borrowing and inflation rose and his popularity waned. He was demoted in 1989 to the unpopular defence ministry.

Since unification he has had to integrate the former East German army into the Bundeswehr, preside over the largest ever cuts in the defence budget and battle inside his own cabinet for the funds to maintain a credible defence system.

Police raid former communists' homes

FROM IAN MURRAY IN BONN

IN A co-ordinated dawn raid, 500 police swooped on the homes and offices of former East German leaders in and around Berlin yesterday. They were hunting for evidence of the old communist regime's shoot-to-kill orders which led to the deaths of 200 East Germans trying to escape to the West.

The state prosecutor's office is under pressure to draw up formal charges of manslaughter against Erich Honecker, the former East German leader. He fled to Moscow more than a year ago to escape a warrant under which he could be held for questioning. Since then, despite intensive investigations, it has not been possible to link him or any of his aides with the shoot-to-kill order.

In all, 38 properties belonging to 27 people were searched yesterday in Berlin, Brandenburg, Saxony and Saxony-Anhalt. They included those of Egon Krenz, who succeeded Herr Honecker briefly as East Germany's leader, and Günter Mittag, a former senior Politburo member. About 200 officers searched the archives of the Communist party headquarters. The party, which was reformed after unification,

complained in an open letter yesterday that the government was trying to criminalise its members.

Among those under suspicion of being involved with the order, are Erich Mielke, the former head of state security, who is on trial for the murder of two policemen more than 50 years ago. Other suspects include Willi Stoph, the long-serving East German prime minister, Harry Tisch, the East German trade union leader, and Heinz Kessler, the former defence minister.

No formal charges have been laid against any of them but, apart from Herr Honecker, all are in prison while enquiries continue. Herr Honecker, who has been granted asylum in the Chilean ambassador's residence in Moscow since last December, has said he will consider returning to Germany to stand trial only if and when charges against him are properly drawn up.

The federal prosecutor in Karlsruhe has opened an investigation into allegations that a former West German minister, currently sitting in the Bundestag, was a Stasi agent and is now working for the successor to the KGB.

Chefs take their hero home

LYONS chefs claimed responsibility yesterday for the theft of a wax figure of the famous chef, Paul Bocuse, from a Paris waxworks museum, saying the Lyonaise master should remain in Lyons.

P.J. Patterson, aged 56, has been sworn in as Jamaica's sixth prime minister. "Jamaicans from all walks of life wish to see the progress in measurable terms," he said.

Maestro Alberto Zedda, aged 63, a former director of New York City Opera, was named artistic director of Milan's La Scala, Italy's most prestigious opera house.

The British research scientist Thomas Brooke Benjamin, aged 62, and the American computer scientist Donald Knuth, aged 54, have been named as foreign associates to the French Academy of Science.

Tammy Wynette, the country music star, was discharged from the Royal Perth Hospital three days after collapsing for the second time on her Australian tour.

The former heavyweight boxing champion, Mike Tyson, faces disciplinary action for giving autographs to fellow inmates, prison officials in Indianapolis said.

Stricken mother goes back to win votes in Italian poll

A WOMAN whose son was kidnapped by bandits in Calabria and held for two years has returned to the depressed southern region, providing a much-needed boost to the local image of the governing Christian Democrat party.

Angela Casella became a national heroine, known as "Mother Courage", when she spent 16 days touring the villages of the Aspromonte mountain on the toe of Italy demanding the release of her son, Cesare. For ten days she lived in a tent in the remote village of Platì, she chained herself to railings and local women staged demonstrations of support. The ordeal ended on January 30 1990 when the kidnappers fled from Carabinieri troops and Cesare escaped after 743 days of captivity.

Signora Casella said she sees her candidature as a Christian Democrat for the senate in the constituency of Lamezia Terme as a way of repaying ordinary Calabrians for their solidarity during the drama.

"The people here gave me so much affection," she said as she prepared for another foray into mountain villages under heavy police escort. "They were so close to me when my son was kidnapped. They comforted me. Calabria entered into my heart."

Christian Democrats get a much needed boost from a heroine who is standing on an anti-kidnap ticket. John Phillips writes from Lamezia



Signora Casella admits she has few new ideas on how to restore law and order other than by encouraging people to speak out and break omertà, the mafia code of silence. But her campaign is a public relations victory for the Christian Democrats who are desperately trying to shake off their traditional image of being inextricably tied up at the local level with the tentacles of organised crime. Signora Casella is a life-long Christian Democrat supporter.

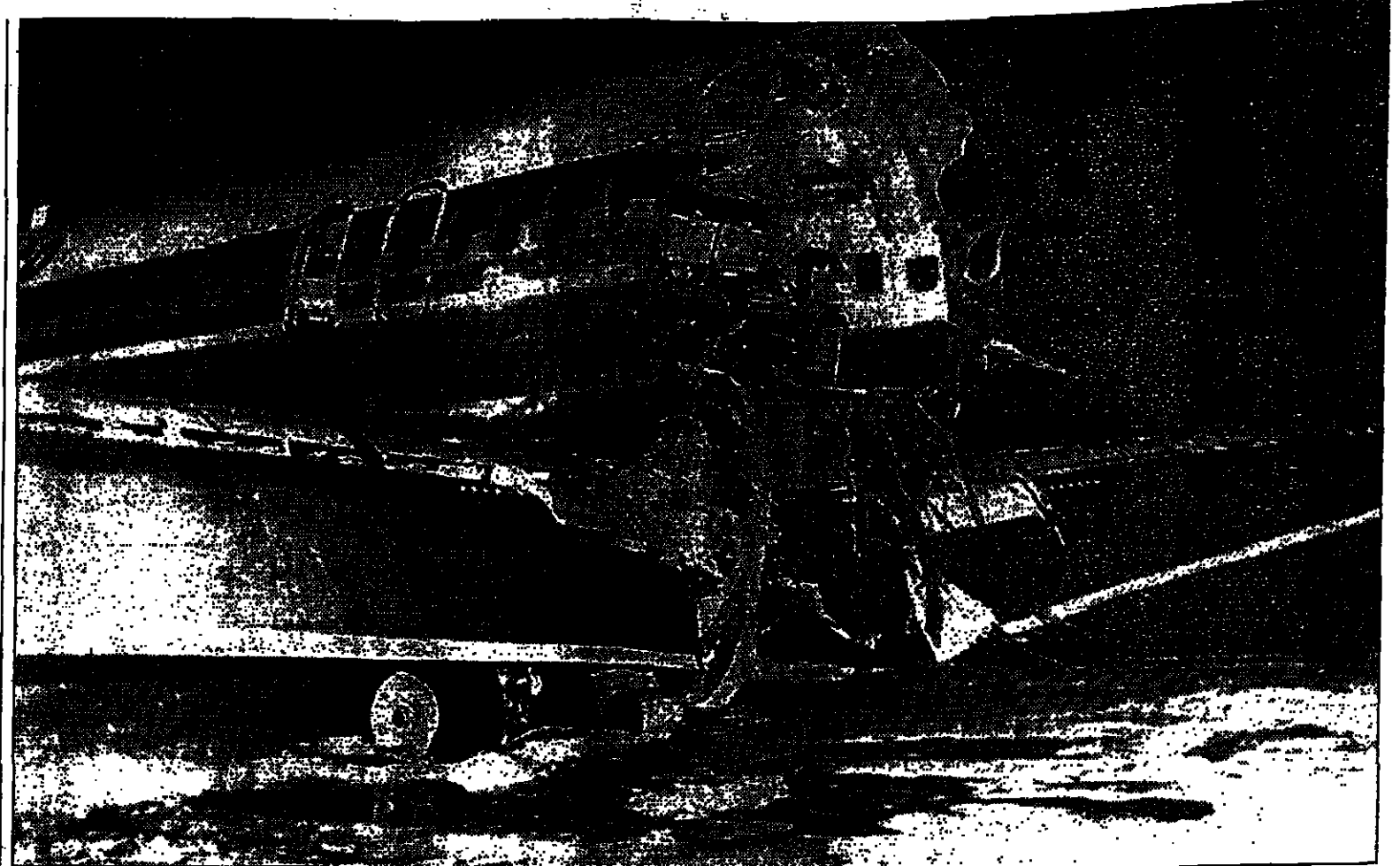
The Christian Democrats won 40 per cent of the Calabrian vote at the last general election in 1987. This time they face a new challenge in the region from an alliance of four opposition parties — the (former Communist) Democrat Party of the Left, the Republicans, the Greens and the "Rete" (network) anti-mafia movement founded by Leoluca Orlando, a former Christian

Democrat mayor of Palermo. With Italy under increasing European Community pressure to cut its huge runaway budget deficit, Christian Democrat politicians know they can offer Calabria little hope of external funds to ease the plight of the 240,000 jobless in the region.

Lamezia, a conglomerate of three commercial towns with 80,000 inhabitants in the foothills of the Sila mountains is not known as a centre for the kidnappers of the *Narantgheta*, the Calabrian version of the mafia.

But unemployed young people are increasingly drawn into violent crime. On February 10 a police superintendent, Salvatore Averza, was shot and killed together with his wife, Lucia. Last month their grave was desecrated in the Lamezia cemetery.

Piles of rubbish lie rotting on the dusty pavements of the towns. Two people were killed in a battle between rival companies linked to the mob competing to win a lucrative contract to clean the streets. The interior ministry dissolved Lamezia's municipal council last year because seven councillors — more of them Socialists than Christian Democrats — were suspected of collusion with the mafia.



Crash-landing: half of a DC9 airliner, which split into two on landing on Monday, sitting on the runway at Granada airport yesterday. Seven people were injured in the incident when a type of the Spanish Aviaco airliner burst on touchdown

Israeli president leads synagogue meeting in Spain King embraces Jews' return

To the relief of the royal family, Israel is not pressing for a Spanish apology for Jewish expulsions 500 years ago. Edward Owen writes in Madrid

what happened 500 years ago, because no one in Spain today is responsible for that tragedy," he said on arrival. "after much deliberation" to the relief of the Spanish royal family and Spanish diplomats.

Spain is organising Sephard 92, an important cultural and architectural programme to rediscover the history of the Jews in Spain, as part of the fifth centennial celebrations of Christopher Columbus's voyage. The exploration was part financed by Jews and conversos (Jews who became Christians).

"All Jews in my realm are mine and under my care and protection and it belongs to me to defend and aid them and keep justice," Isabella said in 1477. Both she and Ferdinand had Jewish physicians. But their Catholic subjects resented the apparent ease with which Jews obtained success and wealth.

On March 31, 1492 the rulers issued their edict in Granada as a religious act, to give thanks for the capture of the city from the Moors. "The Lord has put this thing into the heart of the king," said Isabella. Appeals to her to rescind the Jewish expulsions were successfully deflected by the infamous Torquemada, the Grand Inquisitor. Many of those Jews

who stayed became just as successful as conversos; the rabbi of Burgos became first his bishop and then a papal legate and the new archbishop of Granada was also a former Jew. Several conversos also became Spain's most revered saints, including Teresa of Avila. On the other hand many of those accused of converting "falsely" suffered persecution through *auto de fe*. The choice of Spain for last year's Middle East peace conference underlined the point.



Isabella: forced all the Jews to leave Spain

try's pre-Inquisition reputation as a communal home for Christians, Arabs and Jews. Today Mr Herzog is to visit a new Sephardi museum in Toledo, the city near Madrid to which many Sephardis make a pilgrimage, seeking their roots.

Toledo is refounding the famous thirteenth century school of translators, a symbol of an age in which Christians, Jews and Muslims lived together in harmony. The school will be part of the university of Castilla-La Mancha.

The Jews who left Toledo founded Sephardi communities around the world, some of which still speak "Ladino", an archaic form of Spanish. Toledo itself, meanwhile, has hardly any Jews.

President Herzog visited the Cortes and lunched with Felipe González, the prime minister. Mr Herzog was also given a golden key to Madrid by the mayor, José María Álvarez del Manzano.

The tone was marked however by the appearance in Toledo of anti-Semitic posters, apparently put up by far-right groups. "The Spanish Socialist government is ashamed of our history" one poster read.

In Rome, militant Jews gathered yesterday in front of the Vatican to hold up banners reading "A curse on Isabella". They were protesting against alleged Vatican plans to beatify the queen later this year, on the grounds that she spread Christianity to the New World.

Yeltsin hails red letter day as Russian treaty is signed

FROM MARY DEJEVSKY IN MOSCOW

ALL BUT two of the republics and regions which make up the Russian Federation committed themselves yesterday to preserving the unity of their state by signing the Russian Federal Treaty. Fruit of more than a year's negotiation, the treaty is seen by Russian leaders as vital to staying off centrifugal tendencies within Russia similar to those which led to the break-up of the Soviet Union.

As final preparations for the signing ceremony were in hand, there was further good news for the Russian leadership with reports from one of the two dissenting republics, the north Caucasus region of Chechno-Ingushetia, that the rebel regime of General Dzhokhar Dudayev might be on the verge of collapse.

President Yeltsin, visibly satisfied to have achieved a treaty of the kind that had eluded Mikhail Gorbachev, presided over an hour-long ceremony in the Kremlin's splendid St George's Hall. More than 100 local leaders were seated around a long table, beneath sparkling crystal chandeliers, to place their signatures on the treaty.

The representatives sat in strict order, first the republics, then the larger regions (*krais*), then the smaller regions (*oblasts*) and finally the autonomous regions, each group in alphabetical order. As the two copies of the treaty were brought around, the name of each region was announced, followed by the names of those who would sign it. The cities of Moscow and St Petersburg, which have the status of regions,

also signed in their own right. Mr Yeltsin said it was "a red letter day in the history of our state". He said: "The base of Russian statehood will be the freedom of the republics and regions, their rights and powers, their responsibility before their citizens, Russia and the whole world... We have enough strength to enable us to avert the threat of Russia's disintegration."

Many of the local officials appeared almost bursting with pride, allowing themselves a slight smile as they were handed the official pen and the red-bound volume was laid before them. When

the signing was completed by the president himself there was a light burst of applause, before the first chords of the Russian national anthem brought everyone to their feet.

Of the 88 territorial units which make up the Russian Federation, only Tatarstan, the republic to the east of Moscow which voted ten days ago for independent status in international law, and the rebel Chechno-Ingushetia were absent. Bashkiria, now called Bashkortostan, whose parliament had rejected the treaty, agreed to sign subject to amendments being approved by its parliament.

Emergency declared in Chechen region

BY MARY DEJEVSKY

AT LEAST five people were killed and several wounded in Chechen-Ingushetia yesterday when forces loyal to the rebel government of General Dzhokhar Dudayev stormed the broadcasting centre, occupied by pro-Russian opposition forces in the capital Grozny, reports said.

The elected assembly declared a state of emergency but there were no details of what the emergency entailed or how long it would last. About 5,000 people were reported to have massed in Grozny's central square, both supporters and opponents of the general, many armed.

General Dudayev, who became president last autumn

after unauthorised elections, described the opposition challenge as an attempted coup d'état and appealed to the population to defend their freedom. He accused the opposition of breaking Islam's most sacred rule, that arms should not be taken up or blood spilt during Ramadan.

The Chechens are predominantly Muslim. The self-proclaimed republic of Chechno-Ingushetia is still officially the autonomous republic of Chechno-Ingushetia, one of the constituent republics of the Russian Federation, but the Dudayev leadership declared the territory independent and refused to sign the Russian Federal Treaty.

Ukraine church seeks to separate

Moscow: The Russian Orthodox church opened a five-day synod here yesterday to examine a request by the church's Ukrainian wing to become autonomous from the Moscow patriarchate.

Metropolitan Filaret of Kiev several months ago sent a letter to Aleksis II, the Patriarch of Moscow and All the Russias, asking that the Ukrainian church no longer be dependent on the hierarchy in Moscow.

Sources said the separation was purely a technical request to become self-governing and in principle did not involve any problems. The closed-door meeting is also to decide on several canonicals, and will discuss relations between the Orthodox Church and society. (AFP)

France fined

Strasbourg: The European Human Rights Court fined France £15,490 for being slow in examining a request for indemnity by a man who caught AIDS from a blood transfusion. The man died in February but his parents pursued the case. (AFP)

Tense relations

Berne: Strained relations between Switzerland and Iran have worsened after Switzerland, claiming a reciprocal act, ordered Iranian diplomats to stay within 25 miles of Berne. They also asked for news of a Swiss diplomat held in Tehran. (AFP)

Off the rails

Paris: Striking transport workers brought the new train to Euro-Disneyland to a halt, forcing Paul Quilès, the transport minister, to go to the inauguration ceremony by car. Workers are complaining about conditions and demand more pay. (AP)

Nuclear risk

Sofia: Outdated Soviet-built reactors at Bulgaria's Kozloduy nuclear plant pose an unacceptable safety risk, says an international Atomic Energy Agency committee studying safety of Soviet-built reactors. (Reuters)

Fighting back

Kuala Lumpur: Malaysia is to set up a task force to counter Western accusations that it has failed to control logging. Officials have complained that environmentalists have disrupted the unloading of timber in European ports. (Reuters)

Iraqis rewarded

Baghdad: President Saddam Hussein has halved the jail terms of prisoners who joined at United Nations inspectors searching their jail on suspicion that it was part of Iraq's nuclear programme, the official daily, *al-Qadisiyah*, said. (Reuters)

Bridge attacked

Nairobi: Oromo Liberation Front rebels, who demand the presence of United Nations observers at Ethiopian elections, have blown up a bridge linking Addis Ababa and an eastern town, increasing tension between rebels and the government.

Conor Cruise O'Brien

A constitutional change could get Ireland out of a tight spot on abortion

Many people suppose that last week's decisions of the Dublin government securely established the right of women to travel and to obtain information relating to abortion. This impression is largely created by the screams of the anti-abortion lobby. Dr Mary Lucy, of the Society for the Protection of the Unborn Child (SPUC) claimed last week that as a result of the proposed amendment to Ireland's protocol to the Maastricht Agreement, Ireland will have "the most liberal abortion law in Europe". It will have nothing of the kind. Ireland now has the most ambiguous, confused and dangerous abortion law in Europe, and will have even if the amendment is carried.

Under Irish law the Maastricht Agreement has to be submitted to the people by referendum. The government fears that the anti-abortion lobby, backed by the Catholic church, may mobilise against it the forces that carried the Eighth Amendment (right to life of the unborn) in 1983. The protocol was designed to reassure that lobby. It declares "Nothing in the Treaty on European Union... shall affect the application in Ireland of Article 40.3.3 of the Constitution of Ireland".

But now there is a new danger: that the protocol will not be acceptable to other members of the Community. This danger stems from the international infamy which followed the publicity given to the case of the 14-year-old rape victim prevented by a High Court order from leaving Ireland to obtain an abortion. In order to make the protocol acceptable to other members of the Community, the government thought up last week's amendment: "This Protocol shall not limit freedom of travel between Member States or to obtain... In Ireland, information relating to services lawfully available in Member States."

This negative language refers only to the protocol itself. The protocol shall not limit freedom of travel or freedom of information, but the constitution, as interpreted by the Irish Supreme Court, does limit both freedoms. Through successive Supreme Court decisions, it became a penal offence to circulate information about abortion. Under Community law it is now possible to promote such information, but in private counselling it remains illegal. As for freedom of travel, three out of five judges of the Supreme Court held that it could be restricted in certain circumstances. True, the injunction in the case of the 14-year-old, was struck down, but other injunctions remain possible.

The government is in a tight spot. If it gives ground to the Community, it is in trouble with the church, and vice versa. But the anti-abortion lobby is loudly doing both. Past experience suggests that the church will take up their demands in due course. The lobbyists demand a referendum on abortion before there is one on Maastricht. If the bishops back that demand, the government will probably concede.

However, Albert Reynolds, the Taoiseach, still has some cards to play. The 1983 referendum could not have been carried by so large a majority had it not been supported by Fianna Fail. The lobbyists are almost certainly a bit weaker now than they were in 1983, partly because of the revulsion among the Irish people over the recent case. Mr Reynolds does not have to let the lobbyists dictate the wording of the referendum as they did in 1983. The lobbyists (and the bishops) want the constitution amended because it has been found to legalise abortion in certain circumstances. To get that changed, they will swallow things that they would not swallow otherwise. I believe that if the following proposition replaced Article 40.3.3, it would carry by a large majority in a referendum:

"Parliament shall not legislate to permit abortion in the Republic. This Article shall not limit freedom (here insert the wording of the Maastricht Amendment, thereby making it part of the constitution).

That I believe would satisfy the current state of public opinion in Ireland and get Mr Reynolds out of his tight corner. More important, it would eliminate from the constitution the explosive absolutism of "the right to life of the unborn", and give freedom of movement and information the force of law.

Mass tourism follows close behind programmes like *The Camomile Lawn*, says Bernard Richards

Landscapes of the mind



As seen on television: Broom Park in Cornwall

Televised versions of novels extend the desire to visit the original sites. This desire is terribly strong, and the hearts of travel agents and the hard-up owners of stately homes must leap when they behold yet another bit of territory on their own castle annexed for the empire of the imagination. The straightforward TV holiday programmes are a disaster. I regard them as a kind of prophylactic against travel: they enable you to write off the desire ever to go to the places they present, whether Iceland or Venice, because they infect the whole enterprise with a kind of cheery banality, and in the corners of the screen one can see actual holidaymakers crassly

and inertly wasting their time. Even places one might have wished to visit can be consigned to oblivion once contaminated by the jaunty signature tunes of some of the programmes.

But *The Camomile Lawn* is different. Here, and more so in better examples, there is drama, narrative, a landscape soaked not with the grindingly diurnal personality of a Cliff Michelmore but with psychic intensity, a plot that takes you on a vivid journey.

Advertisers must often be in despair that fictions can achieve, incidentally and far more effectively, results to which they devote their undivided efforts. Ordinary holidays are often so plotless that one craves the association of a meaningful sequence. And if the thing is set in the past, it will encourage a bout of nostalgia. *The Camomile Lawn* comes complete with a Morris 12 with running boards, just like the one my father once sprayed turquoise

with the help of the household vacuum cleaner, and whose leather seats I polished with a lump of beeswax.

Television has intensified literary tourism, because unimaginative readers who in the past used to skip the descriptive bits now see them literally there. Novel readers mentally build their own places, but television settings can be visited. The novels may be located in a sort of no-man's land, but with the screen version one can at least say "this is where the filming of the Terror Run took place", and receive a mild frisson.

Inevitably, though, the literary and television pilgrimages are a colossal disappointment: one realises, standing on the site of some dramatic or melodramatic encounter, that one's life is drained, empty, unemotional, banal — for the moment at least. The whole enterprise is doomed. Prufrockian man and his next-door-neighbour go to Epsom for their holidays hoping for purposeful excitement, only to discover that they are not Prince Hamlet, nor are meant to be.

The author is a fellow of Brasenose College, Oxford.

Britain's slough of despond

Economic prospects are much rosier than the voters realise, argues Anatole Kaletsky

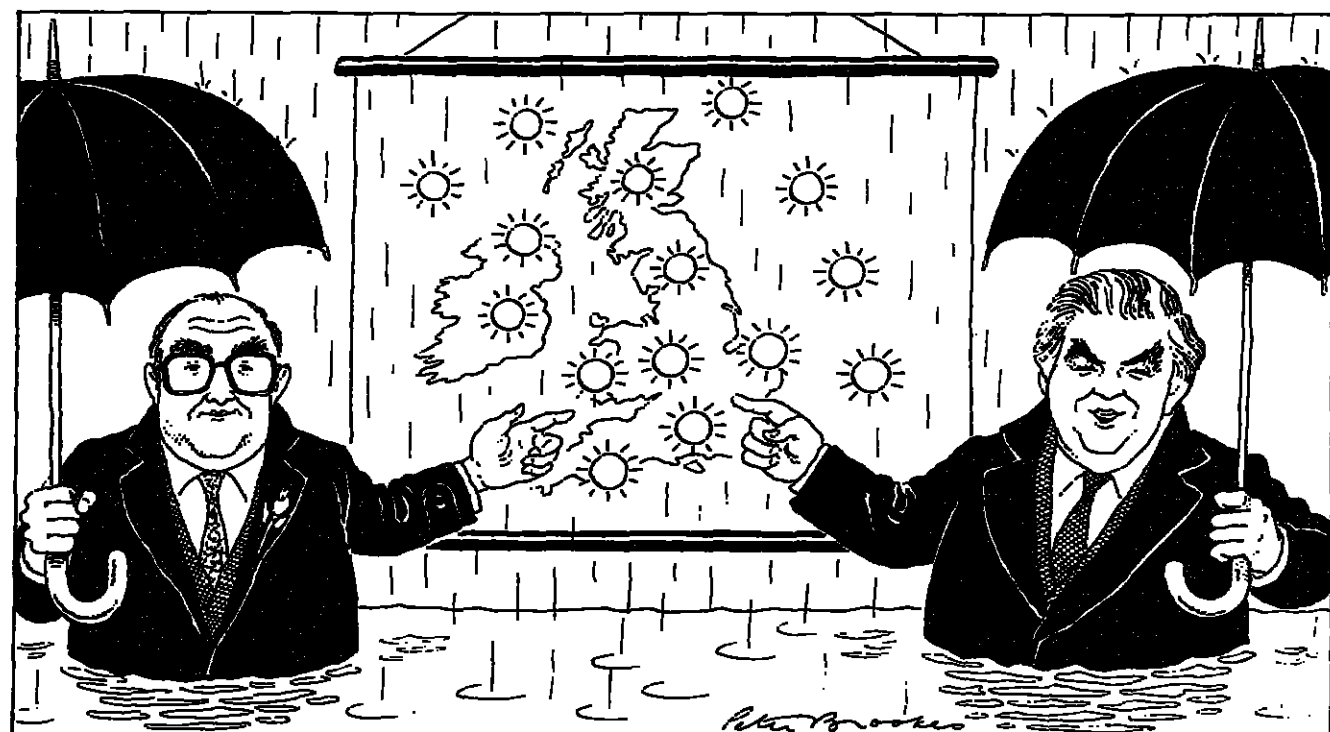
If there were an Olympic event for running down one's own country, Britain would win every time. There was only ever one issue that could win the Conservatives the election: the justifiable fear that Labour's tax policies would prolong the recession and stunt future economic growth. As this morning's poll in *The Times* demonstrates, the Tories have so far completely failed to persuade the electorate that their policies would be any more successful than Labour's in pulling the economy out of recession. But the Tories' inability to capitalise on what used to be an overwhelming advantage in ratings for economic competence was not due solely to the unexpected persistence of the recession, or to Norman Lamont's damp squib of a Budget, or the Conservatives' inability to explain to the voters how Labour's squeeze on the rich would cost working-class jobs.

The government seemed to face a more fundamental problem. So black is the despair gripping Britain after two years of slump and two generations of apparent economic failure, that many believe that the economy is even sicker than it was in the 1970s, before the structural reforms of the Thatcher era. As a result, nobody — Conservative, Labour or Liberal Democrat — is capable of pulling the country out of the economic morass.

This is the only reasonable conclusion to draw from the debate on the tax and public spending "crisis" allegedly facing the nation. Instead of analysing the costs and benefits of ERM membership, examining the Tory economic record or trying to anticipate the consequences of a Labour government, the media have settled for a bizarre set of ground rules for all economic discussion.

Any politician who wants to be taken seriously must accept the following axioms before he is given a serious hearing: Britain will never fully recover from the present recession; the country is condemned to perpetual mass unemployment, and economic performance will be much worse in the next five years than in any comparable period since the war. "As reasonable and honest people, we can surely take all that for granted," say the pundits. "Now, Norman Lamont and John Smith, please tell us how you will fulfil all your election pledges, in the midst of this economic mess."

That is essentially the message from the much-discussed exposé in yesterday's *Independent* about "the hole at the heart of Conservative and Labour tax and spending plans". The *Independent*'s report was quickly repudiated by all three political parties, but so deep is Britain's despair after its long economic failure, that the report's defeatist assumptions may all too easily infect the last week of election campaigning and — far more dangerously — the decisions of the next government.



The Coopers & Lybrand report also accorded with the analysis of Labour's plans published in *The Times* on Monday. Labour's "probable and possible" public spending promises were costed at around £27 billion, compared with the Tories' claim that they would reach at least £38 billion. The Coopers analysis therefore supported my conclusion in *The Times* on Monday: that Labour could finance most of these commitments through additional borrowing while remaining within the Maastricht guidelines.

However, all these reassuring findings are based on a crucial assumption, which Coopers describes as "optimistic". Other media commentators apparently considered it so absurdly Panglossian as to be unworthy of discussion. So what is this ludicrously bullish assumption? It is that Britain's economy will start to recover from recession in the second half of this year and then grow from 1993 to 1997 at 3.5 per cent a year. This is

almost exactly the rate achieved in the four years that followed the last recession, which is why the Treasury chose this assumption. It is substantially below the 3.9 per cent growth rate of the four years after the 1974 recession, and far less than the average in cyclical upswings of the previous 20 years.

To meet the Treasury's growth forecasts, the next government would not have to replicate the inflationary conditions of the Lawson boom, as many commentators seem to think. The Lawson boom, when Britain's growth rate shot up to well over 4 per cent, did not begin until six years after the end of the last recession. In fact, a 3.5 per cent growth rate would be barely sufficient to dent unemployment by the middle of the decade. If the pattern of the 1980s were to be repeated, unemployment would merely stabilise or even continue to rise between 1993 and 1996. With

an economic performance substantially less than the Treasury is assuming, unemployment would continue to rocket, and the gulf between benefit payments and tax receipts would widen as never before.

Precisely such an economic disaster, with growth averaging only 2.5 per cent a year, is what Coopers & Lybrand dubs its "central scenario". Such a weak performance, during what is normally the strong recovery phase of an economic cycle, would be unprecedented in Britain's post-war history. Naturally, it would lead to huge public deficits. But to respond to such deficits by raising taxes or cutting public spending — as most commentators are urging — would be to repeat the economic insanities of the 1930s. When Sir Geoffrey Howe raised taxes to narrow the deficit in the midst of 1981 recession, he simultaneously slashed interest rates and devalued sterling, an option all parties have denied themselves in the years ahead.

The Coopers analysis reveals no fatal flaw in the tax and spending plans of either the Conservative or the Labour party. It demonstrates merely that the financial solvency of any government, like that of any company, depends on its ability to maintain reasonable growth. If Britain cannot achieve growth rates in the 1990s at least equal to those in the early 1980s, there will indeed be a fiscal crisis. There will also be an unemployment crisis, a financial crisis, a housing crisis and a political crisis. By comparison, the swelling of the public deficit will seem like a weak joke.

The economic question politicians should now be required to answer is who will end the recession sooner and deliver faster economic growth. If the Tories cannot persuade the voters that they are the party of recovery after the obvious threats to prosperity posed by John Smith's shadow budget, they will not win the election — and they will not deserve to win.

...and moreover



ALAN COREN

Though I acknowledge the risk that it may make you bury your face in your pinnies and shriek uncontrollably until his wittering arrives, let me call today's wittering a manifesto. I swear I should not do so were there a more appropriate word, but since manifesto derives from *manus* (hand) and *festus* (struck), there is not. Take my word for it. A hand has struck, and something must be done about it if civilisation is not to sink irretrievably into an abyss so beyond our capacity to imagine that even Dante wouldn't know where to start.

On Monday night, we returned from a weekend away with no more than a householder's normal trepidation, ie check all chimneys for sudden absence, turn key in front door, listen for reassuring bleep of undisturbed alarm but keep ear cocked for alien footfall, drip, or crackle, flare nostril for gas, then proceed up stairs and... and stop halfway.

Something was wrong. But its wrongness was not susceptible to the available organs. It was one of those wrongnesses that well up from vague awareness: an unease. I did not know what it was until I came downstairs again and went to collect the suitcase I had left on the step while I opened the door. The suitcase should have been beside something which should have been beside the step. A hydrangea. It had been there twenty years. It was not there any more. What was there was a large hole. There was just

enough light from the hall to see, at the bottom of the hole, a few pitiful white squiggles, snapped off where they still grappled the earth in testament to the fight without which a plucky hydrangea would not give up. A stranger would call them roots. I would call them toes.

For some shrubs you get close to. Some shrubs are family. When we moved into the house in 1972, people came with pot plants: two were hydrangeas, and after the people had gone away again, we planted the infant shrublets either side of the front door, whereafter they were cherished, mulched, fed, and bought regular large ones of aluminium sulphate to keep them blue. They grew, they thrived, and they complemented one another bloom for bloom. Now one of them has nothing to complement. I looked at the house this morning, and it was as if it had one ear. Some bastard stole up in the night and stole away again, and what he has stolen is more than a shrub, he has stolen twenty years.

And he has done even more than that, he has left me at several losses. What kind of bastard can this be? He is clearly not a horticultural bastard, because the plant had already begun to leaf up: it is too late to transplant it, and the bastard will have to shift it quickly if his motive was profit, because if he does not shift it quickly he will be going door to door with a corpse. As you might guess, I have mixed feelings on

this: while for the plant's sake I want it to live, for the bastard's sake I want it to die.

But this is only the tip of the confusion he has wrought. Perhaps he was not a professional bastard at all but a neighbourhood amateur, bent on improving his tract at the expense of mine. If so, am I to trudge Cricklewood's verdant lanes, looking for something beloved and willing so that I can take the bastard by the throat? But if further so, how will I know if the hydrangea is mine and not a mere victim of some brown-fingered nerd? You cannot take people by the throat on such slim evidence: they will croak for the Old Bill even as you throttle.

Then there is the question of what to put in the hole. You cannot buy a hydrangea as large as the one that went, unless you know a bastard, in which case he will be on its last legs anyhow, so am I to plant a tiny one and wait another 20 years for a matched pair? And, to reach the manifesto part of this manifesto, where were my neighbours, the police, the three political parties, when all that digging was going on? In other words, What Is To Be Done? We have grown used to fortifying our houses, so are we now, as things fall even further apart, to start fortifying our gardens, too? Hide mantraps in the arboretum, wire up each rosebush to the local nick, install a Doberman in the rockery?

In short, if even hydrangeas are not safe in their beds, is any of us?

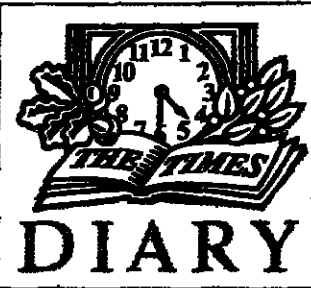
Hopkins bottled up

AS stars of the film and theatre world saluted Anthony Hopkins for his Oscar, an altogether quieter celebration was under way at the Quaker meeting house in London's St Martin's Lane.

"He was here all the time last year and we grew very fond of him," says Diana Galvin, warden of the centre. Hopkins hired a small dining-room at the meeting house to rehearse one of his least known theatrical projects. It was here that he directed an acclaimed but obscure fringe show about Dylan Thomas.

For several weeks Hopkins worked without pay, directing Bob Kingdom in the one-man show, *Dylan Thomas: Return Journey*, which has just completed a run in New York and returns to Britain shortly. Hopkins conducted rehearsals on Tuesdays and Thursdays and chose the venue, at least in part, because at the time he was also attending meetings of Alcoholics Anonymous in the same building. "He used to go straight from rehearsals into the other meeting," says Mrs Galvin. Hopkins also used to pop upstairs to eat her egg mayonnaise sandwiches between rehearsals.

Mrs Galvin initially let the centre to Kingdom, who she had seen performing the show in Dublin. "When someone rang the bell and said 'It's Anthony Hopkins for his Oscar', I thought he was joking," Mrs Galvin, set her alarm at 5 am yesterday to see whether he had won the Oscar. "Of course I celebrated, but I haven't seen the film. Nor do I want to. It's not the sort of thing I would take a coach party of Quakers to see. We prefer to think of Tony as he is. Hannibal Lecter would not fit in very well here at all."



Celebrations were muted yesterday at Orion Pictures, which made *Silence of the Lambs*. Management has filed for voluntary bankruptcy, and despite Kevin Costner's smash hit with *Dances with Wolves*, the 200 remaining staff are to lose their jobs. Despite that, the workforce was still delighted that the film swept the board. "We are going down, but at least we are going down with a bang," says Teresa Musser from the studio in Los Angeles. "We would have a champagne party to celebrate. But we can't afford the champagne — and we are still waiting for our thank-you card from Anthony Hopkins."

City snickers

THE beleaguered Lord Hollick, Neil Kinnock's business cheerleader, now faces dissent in the boardroom. Hollick, the high-profile managing director of MAI, who instigated the letter to *The Times* last month from businessmen supporting Labour's economic policies, has fallen out with his chairman Sir Ian Morrow, who yesterday penned his own letter to *The Times* pouring scorn on Kinnock's threat to introduce credit controls. In fact, unnoted, Morrow's name had also appeared as a signature to the letter from

businessmen supporting Liberal Democrat policy, only days after Hollick's Labour letter.

"I am afraid we cannot agree. We are both fixed in our views," said Morrow yesterday. "We manage to contain our differences at board meetings. Some of our directors are Tory as well." Which begins to explain why Neil Kinnock remains disappointed that his favourite tame businessman has not been able to reinforce his support with a cash donation from his company.

Many candidates lose their seats on polling day: few manage to lose their constituencies half way through the campaign. Jane Kennedy, fighting Liverpool Broadgreen for Labour, managed it this week when she set off on a campaign trip to St Anne's, a



local primary school. She arrived without mishap — but at another school bearing the same name in the neighbouring constituency of Liverpool Mossley Hill. Rosemary Cooper, the local Liberal Democrat candidate, yesterday helpfully put a constituency map in the post to her rival.

Courageous couple

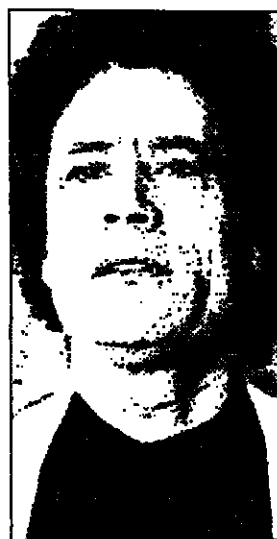
THE DORCHESTER, where Sunnie and Jackie Mann last night hosted an unashamedly sentimental party, has become almost a second home to the couple. They first met at the hotel in 1941, and reread their memories on the same spot at the launch of their book, *Yours till the End*. The title is taken from the Vera Lynn song they first danced to at the hotel during a party for the Guinea Pig Club of badly burned fighter pilots more than 50 years ago.

Not all of their memories of the hotel are so sweet. During one of the Guinea Pig Club dinners, the pair recalled Sunnie unleashing his famously ferocious temper on a female guest who objected to the appearance of the scarred and disfigured pilots. She recalled storming up to the woman and telling her: "You are only eating at the Dorchester because of those boys. They've saved your fat derriere. They've risked their lives for you and this is what they have to show for it." She then poured her gin and tonic over the woman's head.

Who?

THE Duchess of York will make her first foray back into the limelight next week, when she will launch a keep-fit video by her personal fitness trainer, Josh Salzmann. When asked to confirm details, Buckingham Palace was disinclined about the duchess's first public engagement since news of her separation from Prince Andrew. Despite the apology to her ten days ago, she has clearly been declared a non-person by the palace. A spokeswoman said: "We do not have any information. The duchess is not carrying out any official engagements. We would not know about any private events."

Gadafi sees foreign workers as trump card in dispute



Gadafi: left with few friends willing to help

MUAMMAR Gaddafi's Libya is uniquely vulnerable to sanctions imposed by the United Nations, but Tripoli could have a trump card in its colony of resident foreigners, who are potential hostages.

As usual, the ordinary people of Libya will probably suffer the most from cutting off of air services. There could well be a shortage of essential supplies, although officials of the Gaddafi regime will presumably ensure that they themselves do not go without.

The effect of the sanctions is expected to be limited at first. The UN is reserving the right to build up the pressure with stronger measures if those held responsible for the bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 over Lockerbie in Scotland and the destruction of

As UN pressure grows on Tripoli to surrender suspected terrorists, its leader may take foreign workers as hostages, David Watts writes

the UTA DC10 over Niger are not handed over. "We hope they will respond as soon as possible. That's why we are going slowly but surely," a Foreign Office spokesman said in London.

Though the intent is to cut off air links, reduce diplomatic contacts and embargo the sale of arms, in the first instance, there is the example of sanctions against Iraq during the Gulf war to serve as a warning of what can happen if UN demands are not met. French diplomats in Bag-

dad were surprised last year to be fed caviare when they attended a beauty contest but it appears to have been the exception that proved the rule because the air and sea blockade is thought to have been quite effective in other respects.

The Libyan leader can no longer depend on the eastern bloc to help him with spare parts for his oil industry, or even refined products. The UN measures will undoubtedly damage what is essentially a desert state unable to

feed itself. Though Libya is a key supplier of oil to many states the world supply is now robust. Colonel Gaddafi cannot look to other members of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries for help. His recent confrontation with the Arab League has not endeared him to other members. Even his neighbour Egypt, which is sometimes disposed to help him out for the sake of peace and quiet on their mutual border, is not likely to come to his aid to any significant degree.

Colonel Gaddafi's trump card — one which has served him well before — is the sizeable number of British and other European technical experts who help to keep the oil industry and the country's infrastructure functioning.

There were reports last night that exit visas for foreigners were being refused. There are about 5,000 Britons in Libya, many of whom have not left the country in spite of warnings from the Foreign Office issued over the past few weeks. British trade with Libya is worth £250 million a year and the Libyan oil sector was the principal importer of foreign goods.

Italians make up the largest body of foreigners in Libya while Italy, Germany and Britain were the principal suppliers of Libya's imports, with Italy accounting for 20.4 per cent of the total. Likewise, Italy was the principal destination for Libyan exports with 41.6 per cent of the total. Germany is in second place with 19.3 per cent and Brit-

ain well down the list with 2.6 per cent. Germany made a strategic decision some time ago to concentrate its oil purchases outside the heart of the Arab world. After international criticism of German sales of equipment to the Libyan gas weaponry plant at Rabta, Germany is unlikely to oppose any tightening of sanctions should that prove necessary.

It remains to be seen how effective the sanctions will be. In the past year, for which figures are available, Libya apparently imported only £520,000 worth of oil industry equipment. Parts for the Soviet-made military equipment may pose a bigger problem and it is certain that Libya's French-made Mirage

jet fighters will now suffer shortages of parts and high-level maintenance.

Nothing suits Colonel Gaddafi more than to be able to use the threat of American power as a means of rallying his people. The difference this time is that these measures are being imposed by the UN and have the support of the world community.

Just as American power spearheaded the United Nations action against Iraq after the invasion of Kuwait, many Libyans may fear that the Americans are planning a repeat of their 1986 air strike after the terrorist bombing of a Berlin discotheque frequented by American servicemen.

London shares, page 19

Arab states opposed to UN action

Sanctions raise threat of anti-West backlash

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN CAIRO

PUNITIVE United Nations sanctions against Libya raise the spectre of a new wave of anti-Western feeling in the Middle East with Colonel Muammar Gaddafi resorting to tactics, similar to those used by President Saddam Hussein in 1990, to retaliate. Reaction against the United States, Britain and France, who led the sanctions drive, is likely to be matched by the feeling in Arab streets against those Arab governments which shoulder their UN responsibilities and impose the penalties fully. Esmet Abdel-Meguid, the secretary-general of the Arab League, has already said that many Arab nations may choose not to implement the sanctions, notably the ban on air links and the wedding-out of Libyan diplomats.

Even among moderate Arab states, such as Egypt and Syria which provided the backbone of Arab support for the anti-Iraqi coalition during the Gulf war, there is deep distaste, stretching from the leadership down, for sanctions against a fellow Arab and Muslim state.

The Egyptian journalist, Hussein Fahmy, writing in the state-controlled weekly, *Akhbar el-Yom*, claimed the Western objective was "the humiliation and the intimidation" of Libya as well as the creation of pretext and justifications to compel it to relinquish its sovereignty along with its national and international rights. The resentment, which is expected to prompt public protests and a wave of anti-Western sentiments in the

media, is increased by Arab conviction that the United Nations is employing double standards by not enforcing resolutions against Israel in a similar fashion.

"Let nobody think anyone imposing sanctions on an Arab country is good news," President Assad of Syria told a joint news conference here with President Mubarak of Egypt, when both men expressed their hostility to the UN sanctions.

Osama el-Baz, President Mubarak's chief adviser on foreign affairs, underlined the anxiety felt in Arab capitals. "How long can we keep the situation under control?" he asked. "How can we guarantee that we do not get into a vicious circle of action and reaction?"

In Egypt, Algeria, Tunisia and Morocco there are fears that Islamic fundamentalists will exploit sanctions for their own ends to whip up hostility against established governments and to gain popular sympathy. "This is a gift to the fanatics just when we had them under some sort of control," one senior Arab official said.

"Even if Libya were to comply with the extradition resolution in the future, the effects of the sanctions would not end overnight," complained *al-Ahram*, the Cairo daily. "They will continue to take their toll materially, morally and psychologically, a fact that might ironically lead to an increase in the type of terrorism they were designed to punish."

In Baghdad, the government has been working overtime in the run-up to the UN vote to stir up anti-Western feeling and to muster backing for Libya. *Al-Thawra*, the Baath party paper, claimed the UN resolution showed that Iraq had been right to warn that other Arab nations would be the "next scapegoats for Western anger."

The paper, reflecting sentiment also voiced in other less radical countries, said: "Such resolutions sound the warning bell of hatred and malice which the West harbours against Arab countries. Their present animosity against Libya is a continuation of the aggression they launched against Iraq in 1990."

In the countries neighbouring Libya there is deep concern about the economic repercussions of sanctions and the difficulties they are expected to bring. Tourism may be an early casualty. Egyptian migrant workers in Libya could feel exposed and there is a widespread belief throughout the Arab world that sanctions will lead to some form of military action against Colonel Gaddafi.



Medical hearing: Margaret Bean-Bayog, a Harvard psychiatrist, arriving for a hearing of her case at the Massachusetts Board of Registration in Medicine in Boston to answer charges that she had had an affair with a patient who later committed suicide. The board decided that Dr Bean-Bayog's practice

did not constitute an immediate public threat, but said that she had given "sub-standard care" to Paul Lozano, a final-year Harvard medical student worried about making the grade. The board said it wanted a further investigation and referred her case to the Division of Law Appeals for a hearing. (AP)

New Bofors scandal claims job of top Indian minister

BY CHRISTOPHER THOMAS

MADHAVINSINH Solanki, the Indian foreign minister, resigned yesterday in a controversy over attempts to stall investigations in the Bofors bribery scandal, which has dogged the ruling Congress (I) party for five years. Indian politicians and bureaucrats are believed to have received about £30 million in "commissions" to ensure that the Swedish arms manufacturer captured a £750 million contract for field guns in 1986. Mr Solanki went to P. V. Narasimha Rao, the prime minister, in the morning and offered to quit after the *Indian Express* reported that he had handed a document to Swedish authorities in January asking them to go slow in their investigation of the Bofors affair. It has been presumed that people close to Rajiv Gandhi,

the former prime minister, were among those who benefited from the Bofors commissions. Opposition parties caused an uproar in parliament both yesterday and on Monday demanding to know whether Mr Solanki had tried to interfere with the Swedish investigations. The *Indian Express* said he had handed a five-page memorandum to his Swedish counterpart while in Sweden attending a conference. Opposition MPs complained that it was scandalous and a breach of rules to have asked for enquiries to be stalled.

Events came to a head when Mr Solanki was mocked in the Rajya Sabha (upper house) after stating that he had not been aware of the contents of the document, which he said had been drawn up by a lawyer. There were hoots of derision when he said that he could not identify the lawyer. Mr Solanki became foreign minister when Mr Rao came to power nine months ago. His resignation is an embarrassment to the government, but there will be one advantageous side effect for the administration: the die-hard Gandhi loyalists, still waiting for a chance to regain their lost influence, will be further weakened. Mr Rao has been quietly easing them out of the way, and his job will now be that much easier. ● Stockholm: Torsten Jönsson, the Swedish state prosecutor, said yesterday that investigations into the Bofors deal cannot be reopened because the statute of limitations expired this week on any possible violations of Swedish law in 1986. (Reuters)

Shamir's support dwindles over Levy

FROM RICHARD SEESTON IN BET SHEAN, ISRAEL

AT ANY other time in the past 15 years the heated political discussion taking place between a dozen men in this development town's dilapidated shopping precinct would have centred on the benefits of keeping the right-wing Likud party in power.

In the past, the working-class Israelis of Sephardi origin (oriental Jews from North Africa, Iran and Yemen) across the country have remained firmly behind Likud. However, if Yitzhak Shamir, the Israeli prime minister, is still counting on their vote at the June 23 general election then he has failed to grasp the anger and sense of betrayal felt by the 15,500 townsfolk when their most famous son, David Levy, the foreign minister, announced that he was resigning in protest over his treatment by the party leadership.

Speaking yesterday Mr Levy, a populist leader with a strong following among his fellow Sephardis, who make up more than 50 per cent of the electorate, repeated his vow to tender his resignation on Sunday because of what he regards as a conspiracy to keep him from power by Likud's hierarchy, most of whom are drawn from the dominant Ashkenazi (European Jewish) community.

"People come up to me in the street to stop me and tell me how angry they are with Likud about the way David Levy has been treated," said Shlomo Ben Lolo, Bet Shean's mayor. He, like Mr Levy, was born in Morocco before his parents emigrated to Israel in the 1950s. His warning was modest by comparison to some of the townspeople who unanimously criticised the ruling party and threatened either to vote for the opposition Labour party or to support Mr Levy if he chooses to form his own faction.

"We cannot abandon David Levy, he represents for us the ability of every Israeli from whatever background to make it to the top," said Albert Kisilasi, who still recalls with bitterness the harsh conditions he experienced in Israeli transit camps when he and his family were treated as second-class citizens in their new home after they emigrated from Morocco.

Those trends should be taken seriously by the Likud party, said Hanech Smith, a pollster. He predicted yesterday that the ruling party will suffer a further decline in popularity.

"The Sephardi community is half the Jewish vote — a tremendous percentage," he said. "And I would say since 1977 they have determined which party is in power."

Chinese deputies turn on Li Peng

Peking: Li Peng, China's prime minister, has come under attack at parliament's annual session for his halfhearted support of Deng Xiaoping's calls for radical reform. The criticism came as the media yesterday gave wide coverage of Mr Deng's trip two months ago to the Shenzhen economic zone (Catherine Sampson writes).

Some deputies have cast off their usual timidity to accuse Mr Li of failing to back the senior leader's recent attack on party hardliners and his calls for speedy reforms. The criticism of Mr Li has led to speculation that he is in political trouble.

Arabs cut lines

Nicosia: Arab states say that they are still banning telephone contacts with Israel and some have cut off the direct-dial service which the Israeli telephone company introduced last week through third countries to 11 Arab nations. (Reuters)

Moving base

Agaña, Guam: America will turn the western Pacific island of Guam into a key military base to help cushion the loss of Subic naval base in the Philippines, enabling it to deal with "possible threats to regional security", a US Navy official said. (Reuters)

Four shot dead

Antananarivo: Four supporters of President Ratsiraka of Madagascar, including Gaston Laiba, a former culture minister, were shot dead by security forces, and several people were injured in clashes at the start of a forum on a new constitution. (AFP)

Corpse banned

Manila: President Aquino's government has banned airlines and ships from bringing home to the Philippines the remains of Ferdinand Marcos without clearance, and ordered a 24-hour watch on the former president's crypt in Hawaii. (Reuters)

Canberra helps

Canberra: Australia is to spend £68 million to improve the plight of Aborigines, including steps to wean them off alcohol and drugs and reduce their high rate of imprisonment, Robert Tickner, the Aboriginal affairs minister, said. (Reuters)

Baby dies

Miami: Baby Theresa, who was born without a brain ten days ago, has died before her parents could find a court willing to declare her brain dead and allow them to donate her organs to give other sick children a chance of life. (Reuters)

Clinton risks two new tacks

FROM PETER STOTHARD US EDITOR IN NEW YORK

BILL Clinton's presidential campaign, battered by the New York press and sinking in its own private polls, took two new tacks yesterday. In an attempt to appear more statesmanlike, the Arkansas governor prepared a strong foreign policy speech opposing President Bush's short-sighted policy towards Russian aid. In an attempt to bypass the city's aggressive tabloid newspapers he challenged his opponent, Jerry Brown, to at least six debates before next Tuesday's primary.

Both were judged big risks. But his advisers saw little alternative. The two candidates are reported to be within a percentage point of each other in a race where a Brown victory could open the Democratic field to all-comers.

When Mr Clinton arrived in New York last week he hoped that his "front-runner" status would allow him the minimum contact with his "nuisance" opponent. But after days of personal attacks which have deepened his distrust by voters, he has chosen to seize every opportunity to debate. Mr Brown's response was to highlight the "jitters" which the decision revealed in the Clinton camp.

"This is a major breakthrough and we are on our way," the former California governor commented on hearing the news outside a church in Harlem. The biggest day of battle could be Saturday, with plans being laid for a "debatorama" in which the two men would fly around the state, tearing into each other at every airport stop.

Today's foreign affairs speech is expected to echo the criticism of the former president, Richard Nixon, who last month accused Mr Bush of being myopic and miserly towards the aid requests of President Yeltsin of Russia. But Mr Clinton will try hard not to appear a generous uncle to foreign nations. The White House will today try to neutralise Mr Clinton's criticism by producing its own aid package.

A national *Los Angeles Times* poll yesterday put Mr Bush and Mr Clinton within two percentage points. The big surprise was the 21 per cent support for Ross Perot, the Texan businessman, who is close to entering the November race as an independent.

UN flies generals to talks

FROM JAMES PRINGLE IN PHNOM PENH

IN ONE of the most dramatic moments in the troubled search for peace in Cambodia so far, United Nations officials flew into a clearing to pick up two Khmer Rouge generals and bring them to cease-fire talks in Kompong Thom, scene of recent heavy fighting between the Khmer Rouge and the Vietnam-installed Phnom Penh regime.

"We flew into the Khmer Rouge zone to pick them up," General Michel Lorrion, deputy chief of the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) said yesterday. "They had cleared a landing zone in the forest and were waiting for us."

To ensure the security of the helicopter, in an area about 20 miles northwest of Kompong Thom where an UN helicopter was shot at and an Australian officer wounded a month ago, a senior Khmer Rouge officer and representatives from other factions flew in with General Lorrion. Later, talks between the four factions were held in Kompong Thom, a provincial capital 100 miles north of here, in an effort to reach an agreement on a ceasefire in the troubled province.

"We did not yet succeed in achieving a ceasefire, but we did make some progress, and will meet again," General Lorrion said.

● Tokyo: An international meeting on Cambodia has agreed to hold a conference in June on rebuilding the country. (AFP)

Argentine pilots forced to adopt kamikaze tactics

ARGENTINE fighter pilots were hailed as kamikazes for their daring operations against the British Task Force during the Falklands conflict. But on the eve of the tenth anniversary of the South Atlantic battle, the pilots said their risky missions had less to do with bravado and more to do with constraints imposed by lack of up-to-date equipment.

"We were called kamikazes and compared with the Japanese suicide pilots of the second world war because of high-risk flights at very low heights. It was not our intention to take such risks, they were forced on us because we had inferior equipment," Colonel Gustavo Piuma-Justo said. He piloted a Dagger fighter plane

Poor equipment led the air force to embark upon risky missions in the Falklands, Gabriella Gammari writes in Buenos Aires

in attacks against British amphibious landing craft at the Bay of San Carlos on May 21, 1982. That day he was hit by a missile from a British Sea Harrier and ejected.

"We had many limitations. Our radio action area — the area which we can reach from our bases — was limited. We had to send aircraft out with enough fuel and because of that were forced to reduce weight and could carry only up to three bombs," Colonel Piuma-

Justo, aged 47, said. "We only had firm bases. Our aircraft carrier had been taken out of action by the high command."

The Falkland islands are more than 500 miles from the air bases of Rio Grande and San Julian in Tierra del Fuego, used by the Argentine air force. Argentina's only aircraft carrier — the 25 de Mayo — was removed from action early on in the conflict by the then commander-in-chief of the Armada, (navy) General



Weapon of war: the French-made Exocet missile feared in the Falklands

Jorge Anaya, one of three generals who made up the military junta, for fear of losing it to attacks by British submarines. Colonel Piuma-Justo said: "Often enough to save fuel we had to start off flying very high at 35,000 feet, risking radar detection and come down at

the last minute." That forced Argentine pilots into surprise attacks at 50 feet above sea level to avoid British radars.

Colonel Carlos Napoleon Martinez, aged 46, led a squadron of Skyhawks and Mirages in such an attack which sank the supply ships

Sir Galahad and damaged Sir Tristram, anchored off Fitzroy, west of Port Stanley, on June 8. Fifty British soldiers were killed in that assault. "We flew very low. Almost dangerously low behind a hill which hid us from the fleet. Then we hugged that hill and came down

onto the bay. Within 15 seconds five of our planes were on top of the ships and launched their bombs. We realised we had inflicted enough damage and left. When we attempted a second wave of attacks, the Harriers had been alerted. Three of our pilots were hit and killed."

Colonel Martinez said the attack was only possible because of an evident mistake by the British command in leaving the ships open to attack in daylight. "We had no equipment to speak of for night flying and that became an obvious problem for us because the task force had the adequate equipment and could operate at night and in bad weather," he said.



CLASSROOM POLITICS

Britain's education system has been destabilised by a decade of politicised reform. Any further destabilisation could be justified only by the most overwhelming educational priority. Policy must have two goals. It must seek to raise standards overall, so that Britain's workforce can compete with that of other countries. And it must give all children, whatever their backgrounds, the same opportunity to fulfil their potential.

Some of the more drastic reforms introduced by the Conservatives over the past five years should promote the first goal. The government can claim credit for having converted Labour to their importance. The national curriculum will ensure that all children are introduced to the basics of most subjects. Testing at seven, 11 and 14 will monitor those standards and allow parents to begin to estimate the value added by their children's schools. Published league tables of results should spur schools to greater achievement. Reforms of teacher training will eventually filter through to classrooms.

The worry is that the Conservatives' proposed changes to the structure of secondary education will not achieve the second goal. The comprehensive secondary school, to which the Conservatives turned in the 1970s, was built on the premise that the fulfilment of equality of opportunity could not come from early selection. Many Conservatives, who did not oppose streaming or academic selection as such, were strongly opposed to it taking a rigid institutional form as early in a child's life as age 11. Yet John Major is allowing his education secretary to promote a return to precisely the system largely abandoned in the 1960s.

Encouraging certain secondary schools to opt out may well improve education for a minority of mainly middle-class, brighter-than-average pupils, those who already tend to thrive in the comprehensive system. Ministers have to show how this can be achieved other than at the expense of those schools that stay in the local-authority sector and receive children rejected by the new grant-maintained sector. Such children will be those with less pushy parents or lower abilities. Mr Major should appreciate the

evils of such branding. What would have been his parents' "choice" had he failed that fateful 11-plus exam?

Mr Major yesterday boasted that his party would promote "choice" in education by making it easier for parents to choose their children's schools. But all parents will want their children to go to selective schools, as they did following the 1944 Education Act. Selection is Hobson's choice. Popular schools choose their pupils. Only a governing body made up of saints and martyrs would insist on selection being random, rather than on ability. Selection on ability is the key to a school's success in the new league tables and thus its reputation and income.

There were many troubles with the schools that the Tories inherited from Labour. Most are being tackled with reform of curriculum and, above all, local management initiatives designed to rid schools of bureaucratic controls. To them, the concept of opting-out is either an irrelevance or a danger. Already more money is being channelled by the government into "its" maintained schools, as reward for opting out. Already a bureaucracy is developing under Whitehall to administer them. Worse, one council after another is seeing its best schools and thus its best teachers departing, leaving it with the old secondary moderns for the rejects.

A comprehensive structure from 11-16, topped by the government's new sixth-form and other "senior high" colleges, may still divide children between those who can afford private school and the rest. Such a system is not so inadequate as to justify its dismantling in favour of Kenneth Clarke's three-tier: private schools, state-maintained selective schools and what are alarmingly being dubbed "the sinks".

Labour and the Liberal Democrats are wrong to assume, as they persist in doing at the behest of teacher lobbies, that all education needs more money and smaller classes. A good teacher can inspire a class of 40 without a book in sight. But they are right to ask that the old structure of state primary and secondary education be allowed to acclimatise itself to the otherwise sound Tory reforms, before being upheaved once more.

JOBS ON THE LINE

Britain's prospects of emerging from recession, now identified by all parties as the question haunting most voters, suffered a serious setback at midnight last night: not on the hustings, but in Geneva. The failure at Gatt's headquarters to meet yet another deadline in the faltering Uruguay Round of global trade talks is no less serious for being universally expected. The entire six-year negotiation is now in bad trouble, with President Bush speaking for the first time of "possible collapse".

Whatever the relative merits of the recovery plans British politicians have concocted, they pale into insignificance beside the impact on growth and jobs of this seemingly technical negotiation. Like Germany, where it has been calculated that the cost of failure could be a million jobs, Britain is exceptionally reliant on open markets. There could be no worse time for John Major, whose grasp of the dangers of escalating trade wars is not in doubt, to be deflected from the battle with Britain's European Community partners on which the Uruguay Round unquestionably hangs.

The problem is not technical but political. The negotiators were unable to conclude the nuts and bolts agreements on tariff reductions, trade in steel and opening markets in services yesterday because no government is prepared to show its hand without clear evidence that the EC will abandon its obdurate defence of agricultural protectionism. Most negotiators believe that if the United States, which is attempting to break the deadlock on farm trade in bilateral talks with the EC, could achieve a breakthrough there, the other problems dogging the Round can be solved.

The final offer from Gatt goes a long way to meet EC objections. Instead of the deep cuts in subsidies and trade barriers originally sought by America and its allies, it would amount only to a cautious first step towards dismantling agricultural protectionism. The EC still demands modifications, objecting in particular to the limits the deal would set on

the quantity of cereals it dumps on world markets and on the direct payments it wants to make to farmers to compensate for reforms in the common agricultural policy. In mid-March, James Baker offered Jacques Delors a further compromise which would allow some payments to go ahead. But that offer, too, has fallen on stony ground.

The heart of the problem is that the French government remains stubbornly opposed to the principle of bringing farm trade under Gatt disciplines, and none of its partners, beginning with Germany, has been prepared to bring the necessary pressure to bear on President Mitterrand. Each is more interested in courting French support for one or other aspect of the tangled business of reforming the CAP. And both these disputes are being left to farm ministers, whose vested interests against reform make them the last people to trust with an international negotiation which vitally affects Europe's trading future and its wider relations with America.

Yesterday's slippage in the timetable at Geneva almost certainly puts paid to hopes of wrapping up the Round by Easter. If a treaty is not ready for signing soon after that, there will not be enough time for the US Congress to ratify it this side of the American presidential elections in November. The talks would go into limbo until next year, in an atmosphere of recrimination — most of it directed at the EC, and with reason — which could unravel the gains made so far and accelerate the trend towards rival regional trading blocks.

A G7 summit will not rescue these talks, unless the EC governments can first agree among themselves on a realistic offer. That is unlikely without an EC summit dedicated to breaking with the corrupt farm politics and wasteful farm policies which are holding the entire world trading system to ransom. Mr Major could give no more confident signal to voters, nor more significant boost to the British economy, than by using his considerable influence with Herr Kohl to set preparations for such a summit in train now.

THE VANISHING NATION

The report on our news pages that Belgium may be dissolved as a unified nation comes as a shock. Belgium is apparently on the brink either of joining some new Benelux grouping, with Brussels as the EC's independent "Washington", or of splitting between Holland and France. Belgium may not be wildly popular among Britons but they went to war in 1914 to support Belgian independence and many an encounter with the Continent begins with soft drizzle at Ostend.

Belgium would be the second country to vanish within two years, following East Germany in 1990. If as is expected the country divides between its historical neighbours, its two halves would each bring great strengths to their new homes. Belgium's Flemish is softer and more delicate than the harsh general accents of Dutch, and The Netherlands may find that its generally unpopular and little-spoken language now commands more interest and study abroad.

Wallonia's chefs in the south would be free to compete with the French on equal terms. Belgian cuisine has made the country famous. To most Americans Belgium is a country of chocolates and waffles. It is a matter of regret that this distinctiveness would be lost, but France is the gainer. The French, ever conscious of gastronomic excellence, may at last cease making derogatory "Belgian jokes".

Yet there must be a tinge of regret that Bel-

gium's chaotic politics have brought the country to this pass. Agatha Christie will be unintelligible to a younger generation if there is no Belgium to which Hercule Poirot can claim allegiance. And the Mankin Pin will lose its charm as the encapsulation of Belgian culture and the model for many an elegant fountain. René Magritte, the great surrealist painter, loses his bite if his mocked bourgeoisie is placed in a French context. Tintin can surely not be relegated to EuroDisney. The fun will go from that favourite parlour game: "Name five famous Belgians".

Chief gainer would, of course, be Jacques Delors. The decaying Berlaymont offices could be relocated in one of the great buildings in Brussels soon to be redundant: the imposing Palais de Justice, the Heysel stadium or even the royal palace. Europe, with a self-governing capital of its own, could truly enjoy the accoutrements of world power, able to honour its founders and the visionaries who settled on this city as their base: Jean Monet, Robert Schuman, perhaps even Margaret Thatcher — who did more to unify the EC than any other modern leader.

A monument should also be erected to M Delors himself, believed to be the principal architect of the breakup of the EC's host country. Assuming today's decision goes ahead, to him should go pride of place in the famous Grand Place, renamed to commemorate the date: Place du 1er avril, 1992.

Press scrutiny of candidates' lives

From Sir Richard Storey

Sir, The code of practice upheld by the Press Complaints Commission proscribes, under "privacy", all "intrusions into an individual's private life" unless published "in the public interest". Under "discrimination", it states that the press "should avoid publishing details of a person's race, colour, religion, sex or sexual orientation, unless these are directly relevant to the story".

This means that it would be in breach of that code for a newspaper to publish that a general election candidate is, for example, homosexual or Christian — unless such assertions are saved by being "directly relevant to the story", and "in the public interest".

I accept that the judgment of "relevance" and "public interest" will always be open to dispute. Equally, however, I have no doubt that it is an editor's duty to seek and to publish details of all personal characteristics and opinions of candidates who voluntarily offer themselves for approval by the electorate.

That would not be the case were a member of Parliament merely a postman, charged only with reading and counting electors' opinions and then voting in accordance with the majority. Basic literacy and numeracy would then suffice.

I believe, however, that an MP is a plenipotentiary. It would follow that there is a public right to know everything about all candidates that might influence the way voters support them: only in this way may voters judge whether candidates are likely to represent them in Parliament to their satisfaction.

Generally, the sexual or religious preferences of MPs must be expected to influence their attitude towards family life, specifically, such preferences could affect members' opinions on the desirability of homosexuality in the armed forces, the police and the Church of England, and could prevail on their views about the age of consent at which practising homosexuality becomes legal.

That knowledge of a candidate's characteristics influences how people vote is beyond doubt. Thus, in a democracy, can there be any doubt on whether newspapers should publish the kind of information to which I refer?

I write in my personal capacity and do not seek to represent the views either of my company or its employees. Yours faithfully, RICHARD STOREY (Chairman, Portsmouth and Sunderland Newspapers), Settrington House, Malton, North Yorkshire.

In the dock

From Mr Norman Macleod

Sir, In a recent crown court case I represented a client who had been granted unconditional bail, had no previous convictions of any sort, and was of unblemished character. Even before the case had reached court the Crown Prosecution Service had indicated that it was going to offer no evidence in relation to the one charge that remained from the magistrates' hearing.

My client had therefore only to appear to have the matter disposed of and to deal with the question of costs. None the less, he was required to step first inside the dock, then into the staircase leading thence to the cells, and there to remain behind a heavy door, together with a prison officer, until the judge appeared.

He had then to re-enter the dock, where he remained for a minute or so, whilst the case was dealt with. He left the building, as he had arrived, without a stain on his character.

Why should this be? Why, when security is not an issue, should any client be obliged to stand in a place and on a spot that is quite clearly associated in most people's minds with crime and guilt? Why should he not be allowed to sit with his lawyer in the body of the court?

I would like to see the dock abolished, save for the most exceptional cases. I believe that it is an absurd, undignified and stigmatising anachronism, quite out of keeping with the presumption of innocence. Yours faithfully, NORMAN MACLEOD.

Macleod Widdowson (solicitors), Ashdene, Wareside, Hertfordshire.

Market forces

From Sir Alfred Sherman

Sir, Pace Clifford Longley ("Market forces too often clash with social justice", March 28), Friedrich von Hayek and his school argued that the market maximises well being of all classes and that intervention weighs most heavily on the poor. If Mr Longley wishes to refute this thesis, he must first comprehend it.

Mr Longley's claim that "thousands died... in the Irish famine, victims of the belief of their masters that any intervention in the workings of a market was a kind of sacrilege", is wholly untenable. On the contrary, the Irish starved precisely because the Corn Laws put the landed interest above the workings of the market.

The system was fought by those whom Mr Longley condemns as "radical political economists", e.g. Cobden and Bright, the Anti-Corn Law League and their convert, Sir Robert Peel. Parallels with the Euro-

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

Discrepancies on science spending

From Professor T. J. Biscoe

Sir, Alan Howarth, Under Secretary of State with responsibility for science (letter, March 27), must be living on another planet along with his acolytes in the DES for all the relevance his statements have to the condition of our major research universities. He knows that the proportion of GDP spent on the science base has fallen from 0.35 per cent to 0.28 per cent. His officials at least must know that this takes no account of the fall in the resources granted through the Universities' Funding Council.

He has the gall to lecture us on pride and generosity, when it is the overweening pride of successive holders of his office and their absence of generosity, coupled with a profound ignorance of the nature of the scientific life, that has led to the present plight of our national heritage. Now he claims there are increases in funding for science; he cannot really expect us to accept that these will recompense the universities for years of forced neglect of run-down buildings and equipment.

Does he really comprehend the needs of modern science, or even care very much? I doubt it since he and his fellows seem not to be persuaded that the country desperately needs an advanced science base to support its technological aspirations. It will not do to pretend we can buy in the technology as we need it, for without our own internationally competitive teaching and research base no one will know what to buy.

There is also a continual failure to comprehend the importance of curiosity-driven research. For example, the work on penicillin by Florey and Chain was viewed at the time it was begun as one of purely scientific interest. Incredibly, there are still ostriches around who do not care why the sky is blue and would never fund Tyndall, who found out.

As to whom we should support, it would be nice to be able to believe that "the Conservative party respects

and values British science" but there is little encouragement to do so.

Yours faithfully, TIM BISCOE, University College London, Department of Physiology, Gower Street, WC1.

From Professor Denis Noble, FRs

Sir, As Mr Howarth must surely know, it cannot simultaneously be true that government funding of civil science has fallen by around 30 per cent as a fraction of GDP (as the OECD statistics on international comparisons show) and that the figure has risen by 30 per cent in real terms since 1979, as Mr Howarth claims.

Since the prime minister has also used Mr Howarth's figures in a recent letter to Save British Science, the matter reveals a deep misunderstanding at the highest ministerial level and it is based on selecting figures for only one half of the government's funding (that allocated by the research councils) and ignoring the rest.

What ministers' manipulations of the figures cannot conceal is the fact that the UK is the only OECD nation to show an uninterrupted decline over the last decade both in the fraction of total GDP invested in civil science and in the fraction invested by government.

Yours faithfully, DENIS NOBLE, University of Oxford, University Laboratory of Physiology, Parks Road, Oxford.

From Mr G. E. Howe

Sir, I wonder how many of the 17 "British Scientists Abroad" who wrote to you (letter, March 30) expressing their frustration at the "lack of research opportunities" in the United Kingdom accepted less well paid jobs abroad in pursuit of their search for these opportunities?

Yours faithfully, G. E. HOWE, The Folly, Selham Road, Grafton, Petworth, West Sussex.

'Hidden' candidates

From Mr John Wilcox

Sir, We are now two weeks into an election campaign which, informally, has been waged since the end of the Gulf war. No party could have been caught unprepared by the announcement of election day.

And yet, sitting here in the middle of London — which the media tells me could be a decisive battle ground — I still await news from each of the parties about their local candidate and his or her beliefs and policies.

I have had very prompt requests for financial support from both the Tories and Liberal Democrats, but

no indication of who will carry their banner in my constituency. Perhaps it doesn't matter any more, given the over-kill national coverage given to the party leaders.

But, as one of the "great undecided" so far in this election, I would like to know now a little about the background and personalities of the local candidates, to help me make up my mind. I believe this is important.

Will no one fight the war for Wilcox's ear? Yours truly, JOHN WILCOX, 126 Ebury Street, SW1, March 30.

Independent schools

From Dr C. J. Tyerman

Sir, Mr Dunnet (letter, March 28) applauds the assisted places scheme for independent schools. As a public schoolmaster, I cannot agree. Independent schools reasonably make much play of their independence. Why should they receive the benefits, at taxpayers' expense, of a number of able children? Either they are independent or not.

The charitable element of the assisted places scheme is taxpayers' charity, not independent school charity. Arguably, those schools accepting assisted places are admitting that independence is not enough. Equally, why should taxpayers, who have decided not to, or

who cannot afford to, or who do not wish to use the private sector subsidise independent schools?

Stronger links between the private and public sector would be better forged through a sharing of facilities, co-operation in teacher training, and a greater willingness on both sides to recognise the unity of the teaching profession and the common needs of education.

The assisted places scheme merely adds to the sense of resentment on one side and superiority on the other: politically expedient, it is illogical and divisive.

Yours etc, CHRISTOPHER TYERMAN, 80 High Street, Harrow-on-the-Hill, Middlesex, March 28.

Gospel dispute

From Prebendary John Linford

Sir, Your reporter suggests surprise ("Bishop disputes gospel of John", March 28) at the Bishop of Durham's view of St John's gospel. It is well time that we had a better idea of what the gospel writers were actually trying to do.

Anyone who reads St John's gospel objectively and compares it with the other three must come to one of two conclusions: either John knew a totally different Jesus, or he is attempting something rather different, in his gospel, than a literal account of the life and words of the historical Jesus.

I believe, with very many others, that we must adopt the latter view.

John is describing not what the historical Jesus of Nazareth said and did (except in bare outline), but who he was and what he was saying to his Church, not once in Galilee, but everywhere in every age.

The historical Jesus is unlikely to have said "I am the way, the truth and the life", "I am that bread of life", "I am the light of the world", "I am the resurrection and the life". But the risen and exalted Christ is all those things to those who know him and serve him. This is what John is trying to say.

Yours faithfully, JOHN LINFORD, 16 School Lane, Hill Ridware, Rugeley, Staffordshire, March 28.

Arts policy views at variance

From the Minister for the Arts

Sir, Mark Fisher's confusion over the government's arts policy appears to be equalled by confusion over his own (letter, March 26). On the matter of the export of works of art, the consultation period on the many recommendations in the report of the export review committee does not, of course, end until March 31. Mark Fisher does not realise that it would be unprecedented and irresponsible for a minister to take a decision on these in the few days before an election. This will be done on our return to power.

I note that Mark Fisher says that a Labour government would unfreeze the purchasing grants of our national museums and galleries, and "would not impose any upper limit on the reserve available for accepting works of art in lieu of capital-transfer and inheritance tax".

Here is a notable ideological U-turn. Interested parties, myself included, would like to have Neil Kinnock's specific endorsement of this unreservedly munificent statement, and also an estimate of its annual cost and where the money would be found.

Mark Fisher is of course out of date over the listing system: the need for this emergency measure, designed to prevent the flow of Britain's art heritage from this country, should happily be obtained as soon as the national lottery for the arts and other beneficiaries is in place, which we announced recently. Labour and Liberals still cannot make up their minds about a lottery.

Yours truly, TIM RENTON, The Priory, Haywards Heath, West Sussex, March 30.

Women high sheriffs

From Mr Justice Tucker

Sir, You are mistaken in your belief that Mrs Elizabeth Eden, newly appointed high sheriff of Devon, is the first woman to hold the post of high sheriff (photograph and caption, March 27).

During my sittings on circuit I have been most hospitably received by elegant lady high sheriffs (and by their husbands) in the counties of Lincoln, Nottingham, Berkshire and Merseyside. I know of others in the counties of Derby, Oxford and Warwick, and of at least two instances where wives of judges have been so appointed.

And I believe that Nicola de Haya was appointed high sheriff of Lincolnshire in 1216 — before my time. Yours faithfully, RICHARD TUCKER, Royal Courts of Justice, Strand, WC2.

From Mr Robin Hartley Russell

Sir, Of the 46 English counties and shires, Bedfordshire, Merseyside, Northamptonshire and Suffolk were represented by women in 1991-2: Buckinghamshire, Devon, Durham and Hereford & Worcester have appointed women high sheriffs for the coming year. Wales has been represented by two — Powys (1991-2) and Gwynedd (1992-3).

Over the last two years women high sheriffs have accounted for less than 10 per cent of the total in England and Wales. It would be nice to see this proportion increase.

Yours faithfully, ROBIN HARTLEY RUSSELL, Bucklebury House, Bucklebury, Berkshire.

Weil's disease

From Mr J. S. Kreeger

Sir, Your report of March 19 ("Pig farmer killed by rat virus" of another death from leptospirosis (Weil's disease) from a tiny cut in his finger is a sad reminder of a virus which kills as many as does the more well publicised Legionnaire's disease, but still attracts relatively small attention. It continues to take its toll of victims: the mild winters of recent years have alarmingly served to increase rat populations in town and country.

Those involved in farm work and water sports are generally aware of the disease, but many professions are at risk. My father, an architect, died at the age of 36 after contracting leptospirosis, evidently in a London cellar on a routine inspection.

The leptospirosis research unit at Hereford County Hospital — almost the only hope of finding a cure — is sadly under-funded. Perhaps only an outbreak will raise the general awareness of this terrible disease to the extent where greater facilities and funds will be made available to rid us of it.

Yours faithfully, JONATHAN KREEGER, Stowe School, Buckingham.

Hat trick

From Mr G. E. Bates

Sir, In the first episode of a new series of *Jeeves and Wooster* (ITV, March 29) Mr Wooster claimed he had purchased his "American" hat from us.

Mr Wooster must be very absent-minded as this was certainly not the case, although we would have felt privileged to have had his custom.

Yours faithfully, G. E. BATES (Gentlemen's Hatter), 21a Jermyn Street, St James's, SW1.

Coming ages

Mr K.W. Right
and Miss C.E.F. Grant
The engagement of Mr K.W. Right
and Miss C.E.F. Grant is announced.
Mr J. Laycock, of the firm of
Messrs J. Laycock & Co., of 1, St. James's
Place, London, is the officiating minister.
The bride is the daughter of Mr J. Laycock
and Mrs. Laycock, of 1, St. James's Place,
London. The groom is the son of Mr K.W. Right
and Mrs. Right, of 1, St. James's Place,
London. The wedding will take place on
Saturday, April 4, at 11.15, at St. James's
Place, London.

Mr M. Thompson
and Miss H. Dow
The engagement of Mr M. Thompson
and Miss H. Dow is announced.
Mr M. Thompson is the son of Mr M. Thompson
and Mrs. Thompson, of 1, St. James's Place,
London. Miss H. Dow is the daughter of Mr H. Dow
and Mrs. Dow, of 1, St. James's Place,
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OBITUARIES

NORMAN BRUCE

Norman Scott Bruce, Scottish rugby international, died of cancer in Oswestry on March 28 aged 59. He was born in Edinburgh on June 26, 1932.

NORMAN Bruce played in 31 rugby union internationals for Scotland and was for many years a guiding light in army rugby circles. He won a reputation as a mobile and aggressive hooker during his six years in Scotland's national team between 1958 and 1964. For four of those years he was part of a formidable front row, alongside David Rollo and Hugh McLeod, as Scotland emerged from the era of failure which had dogged them through much of the 1950s.

He was educated at Galashiels Academy and played for Gala and the South of Scotland before his career with the army took him south. He was commissioned in the Royal Army Ordnance Corps and played for the Army, the Combined Services and Hampshire while his club rugby was played for Blackheath and subsequently London Scottish, where he was part of a star-studded XV.

He won his first cap against France in 1958 and though a shoulder injury kept him out of the next international, his subsequent 30 appearances were consecutive. His record includes three international tries, one against South Africa at Port Elizabeth, when Scotland were the first of the home unions to make a short overseas tour, and one against England in his final international in 1964. He would probably have won more caps but a posting that year took

him to Borneo. He also played for the Barbarians, including their tour to South Africa in 1958, but missed selection for the 1959 British Isles touring party to New Zealand at a time when outstanding candidates from other countries included Ronnie Dawson (Ireland), who captained the Lions, and the experienced Welshman, Bryn Meredith.

Bruce was an outstanding technician in an era when hooking was far more of a specialist position than it is today. Although quite a big man for the position at 6ft and 14st 4lb he could heel the ball from a very low position and contemporaries such as Jim Telfer, later the Scottish coach, testify to his leadership qualities and the encouragement he offered on and off the field to young players coming into the side.

Although he did not lead his country he captained the Army many times and the official history of the Army Rugby Union said: "Few, if any, regular army officers can have had such a distinguished career in international rugby as he, and no-one has done more to stimulate enthusiasm for the game or raise the standard of play at all levels in the service."

In Army terms his greatest achievement was to take a XV from his small unit, the 28th Company RAOC, to success in the United Kingdom final of the Army Cup. He later became chairman of the Army selectors and a vice-president of the Army RU before leaving the service, as a lieutenant-colonel, some seven years ago. He took up a teaching post at a private school in Oswestry.

He leaves a widow, Sheila, a son and a daughter.

EASLEY BLACKWOOD

Easley Blackwood, bridge authority and former insurance manager, died in Indianapolis on March 27 aged 89. He was born in 1903.

THE Blackwood convention for discovering the number of aces held by a partner is by far the best known, most used — and most misused — bidding convention in bridge. But many players are unaware that it bears the name of a real person who until last Friday continued to live in the town where he had invented it 60 years earlier.

The convention was rejected by Ely Culbertson, the man who for twenty years from the 1930s totally dominated the bridge scene and controlled the means of publicity. But Blackwood's convention spread rapidly by word of mouth, first in his home town, then in regional tournaments, and finally all over the world.

Blackwood himself likened the story to that of a politician who is overwhelmingly elected to public office against the united opposition of the political parties and media. "Everybody was against me," he said, "but the public."

When Blackwood, a young insurance office manager, had his brainwave, contract bridge had not long been invented by America's richest man, Harold S. Vanderbilt. Bidding systems were in their infancy and players often reached a slam only to find that there were two aces missing.

Blackwood realised that a declaration of four no trumps



would seldom provide a profitable final contract so he proposed using this call as a cipher, asking, in effect, "partner, how many aces have you got?" In response, Five Clubs would signify no aces, Five Diamonds one ace, and so on.

Blackwood had to keep relatively quiet about his invention as his superiors in the insurance office did not like

him wasting time on bridge. He therefore tried to publicise the convention under a pseudonym. Then he found that his company's president was a keen player so he formed a partnership with him and life became easier. But not until 1949 did he publish his first book, and by then the convention had already been described in 57 other books, though Black-

wood himself had not made a penny. Culbertson eventually capitulated and included the Blackwood convention in his own standard text book. Like Henry Canossa he went to Indianapolis and presented Blackwood with a copy, but could not resist boasting that he had made \$100,000 from another book on his own four no trump convention, even though this was a failure and is now almost forgotten.

Later, Blackwood made a big income from his bridge enterprises, including teaching and club ownership. He played the violin, sang, enjoyed chess, studied history, and was an accomplished writer and lecturer, but as a bridge player he won only minor championships.

Blackwood was born in the Deep South, in Birmingham, Alabama, where his father was a merchant. He did not go to college but, starting as a clerk, became, at 26, the Metropolitan Life Insurance company's youngest-ever sales office manager when he moved to Indianapolis.

Blackwood played the earlier game, auction bridge, as a child with his parents and grandparents, but his wife Beatrice came from a Southern Methodist family in which cards were forbidden. Blackwood himself taught her to play bridge and on their 50th anniversary she had just gained high rank in the master points scheme. "I am married to the slowest bridge teacher in the world," she said.

She died in 1982. Their son Easley is a professor of music and a composer.

ADMIRAL GEORGE ANDERSON

Admiral George Whelan Anderson, Chief of US Naval Operations during the Cuban missile crisis of 1962, died of congestive heart failure in a nursing home in McLean, Virginia, on March 20 aged 85. He was born in Brooklyn, New York, on December 15, 1906.

AT THE height of the Soviet missile crisis in Cuba, with the world poised perilously close to the brink of conflict between the superpowers, President John Kennedy sent a message to George Anderson. "Well, Admiral," he said, "it looks as though this is up to the Navy." Anderson replied: "Mr President, the Navy will not let you down." Nor did it. Anderson organised the blockade of Cuba which proved a major factor in defusing the situation.

The action brought him to public prominence, leading *Time* magazine to feature him on the cover and describe him as "an aggressive blue-water sailor of unfaltering competence and uncommon flair." Behind the scenes, however, these same qualities were leading to a dash which brought his 36-year naval career to a sudden halt.

At issue was the degree to which civilian officials in the Administration should involve themselves in military affairs. Anderson bitterly resented the interference of Robert McNamara, then defence secretary, in his conduct of the Cuban operation, and the two men were said to have had a blazing row in the Situation Room at the Pentagon over specific ship deployments. He also clashed with McNamara over the use of the TFX fighter plane which the defence secretary wanted deployed with both the US Navy and Air Force, but which Anderson regarded as unsuitable for carrier operations. Congress agreed with him on that one, and McNamara reluctantly agreed to the Navy's long-held plans to have all its aircraft carriers nuclear-powered.

The abrasive conflict between the two men could have only one outcome: Anderson was abruptly fired from the post of operations chief in 1963. President



Kennedy, however, had been so impressed with the navy's handling of the Cuban blockade that he launched Anderson on a new career, appointing him as United States ambassador to Portugal. During his three years in the post, Anderson encouraged plans for a peaceful transition of the Portuguese colonies in Africa to independence. He returned to government service in 1973 as a member of the president's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board, later becoming its chairman before leaving the post in 1977.

George Anderson entered the US Naval Academy at Annapolis in 1927 and trained as a pilot after graduation. He flew as a test pilot and in the years before the war served in cruisers, flying catapult launched seaplanes, and in the aircraft carriers *Lexington* (known affectionately throughout the American fleet as "Lady Lex"), from which he flew fighter sorties, and *Yorktown*.

During the early part of the war he was involved in the formulation and planning of the American aircraft production programme in the challenging circum-

stances of a rapid expansion of naval aviation to combat the Japanese threat in the Pacific. The job also involved him in liaison with the Army Air Force which brought him an Army Commendation Ribbon — and authorisation to wear it, though a naval officer. In 1943 he was appointed navigator and tactical officer aboard the second USS *Yorktown*, the first having been sunk at the Battle of Midway in June 1942 ("Lady Lex" had perished at the Battle of the Coral Sea in the previous month). As tactical officer Anderson took part in directing air strikes in the Pacific. More fortunate than her predecessor, the second *Yorktown* survived the war and Anderson was decorated for his outstanding services while aboard her.

After the war, when General Dwight Eisenhower needed an assistant at the headquarters of Nato, he asked the navy to "send me the smartest naval aviator you've got." He got George Anderson. Anderson went on to command a task force operating between Taiwan and mainland China, and later took charge of the Sixth Fleet. After leaving the navy he became chairman of an outdoor advertising company and served on the boards of several other corporations.

A devout Roman Catholic, Anderson frequently issued advice on moral matters to his crews over the ship's broadcast system. These transmissions became known sardoniously as "The Sea Scout Hour". Nevertheless his pious concern for moral welfare had its practical side, most notably demonstrated in his instructing his medical officers to issue penicillin pills to prostitutes at ports of call, thus, he claimed, cutting the incidence of venereal disease among his sailors by half. His men also respected him for his concern for their families when ships were at sea for extended periods; sick wives were not infrequently the recipient of flowers organised by their husbands' commanding officer.

He was widowed in 1947, and two sons who became navy pilots also predeceased him. He is survived by Mary, his second wife of 44 years, and a daughter.

APPRECIATIONS

Friedrich von Hayek



I WAS a student at LSE in 1930 when Hayek (obituary March 25) burst on the scene and delivered his lectures, afterwards published as *Prices and Production*. To say that the effect was sensational is to put it mildly. Here was an entirely new approach to the problem of the trade cycle which had been agitating the minds of economists throughout the Twenties with little agreement among them. The underlying concepts were completely new to English-speaking economists, few of whom read German or knew anything of the works of Böhm-Bawerk, Mayer and Mises, pillars of the Austrian school.

There was no doubt about the intellectual stimulus. But what did it all mean in practical terms? It seemed to be pointing to further deflation as a cure for current ills at a time when the world was slipping deeper and deeper into depression and disorder. Could this possibly be right? Fortunately the combination of Keynesian economics and Rooseveltian pragmatism saved the world from even greater calamity than it in fact suffered.

As a technical economist therefore it cannot be said that Hayek was a success. The book was savaged by academics on both sides of the Atlantic. For those brought up in the classical British tradition its central concepts were almost unintelligible. I spent two years of my young life grappling with this problem for my Master's degree, for which Hayek himself was one of my examiners! He must have approved of my efforts because he awarded me the degree in 1933. It was all in vain, however, and in the battle between the London school of Hayek, Robbins et al and the Cambridge school led by Keynes, the latter swept all before it.

But if as a pure economist Hayek failed, many of his basic social and political ideas have been, as we know, triumphantly vindicated. It is good to think that he lived long enough to see that triumph.

Sir Samuel Goldman, KCB

DURING the war young staff at LSE were thin on the ground. Thus when I went up to LSE in 1943 the professors had to act as tutors to first year students. I and a male student had Professor Hayek as our tutor and I well remember seeing him sitting in his armchair with his long legs stretched out, like the Low cartoon of Keynes. He was courteous and kindness itself to us, especially as we were both vociferously left wing and inclined to Laski's views as embodied in the *New Statesman*. Each week we had to prepare an essay for him and two tutorials stand out in my mind: one when we had to review *The Road to Serfdom* (which we had to

buy for 6s), I have the blue slim bound copy still; and secondly when we had to write an essay on inheritance tax. I was all for swinging taxes, but would agree with his point of view now in my more mature years.

Cynthia Walton

I SHARE Arthur Seldon's appreciation of Friedrich von Hayek's contributions to the theory of Capital. I, too, was one of his students, but a few years earlier than Seldon, during the worst phase of the great depression of 1931-33, and attended his postgraduate seminar a little later.

During the present general election campaign, it seems that each of our political leaders has omitted to appreciate the import of one of Hayek's cardinal perceptions. Whilst the total level of taxation and its distribution among various classes of the electorate is clearly of great political importance, Hayek attached much greater importance to the kinds of taxation that were appropriate for dealing with the British balance of payments, always the most important of Britain's many economic concerns. He perceived that taxes levied especially upon the rich, in the political interest of "equality", even if they did provide more jobs in the short run for the unemployed, must inflict special damage upon the British balance of payments. For it is the relatively rich whose investments provide the major part of the advanced capital equipment of the private sector of industry, commerce and agriculture upon each of which the competitive strength of the British economy overwhelmingly depends.

These considerations have nothing whatsoever to do with the subject of "social justice", but the grim weight of their logic compels us to accept them.

One day, a group of his students, including myself, were descending in a crowded lift after one of his seminars. Behind us, at the back of the lift, stood the tall figure of our teacher. Commenting upon the political furor of the time (very similar to the wrangling of today) we heard him say, sadly: "If only things would stop happening for a while, we might get down to some real economics." Quite.

Richard Terrell

Ralph Brain

RALPH Brain, OBE, former Oxford correspondent of the *Times*, died on March 28 aged 80. For a quarter of a century he supplied university and other news to the newspaper, including the controversial annual analysis of colleges' academic success. He was awarded the honorary degree of Master of Arts

by Oxford University in 1971 in recognition of his work. Five years later he was appointed OBE.

Born at Wootton, near Woodstock, and educated at Oxford High School, he joined the *Oxford Times* in 1928. After war service with the Royal Army Medical Corps, he returned to the *Oxford Times* and its sister paper, the *Oxford Mail*, and became chief reporter in 1951.

Radar study of medieval manor

BY JOHN YOUNG

SEVEN rooms at Ightham Mote, Kent, which have never before been seen by the public, will be on view for the first time when the 650-year-old manor house reopens today.

Their repair and furnishing completes the first phase of a £7,500,000 restoration project by the National Trust, among the biggest and most delicate it has undertaken. The house is probably the most complete medieval moted manor in Britain, the earliest parts dating from 1340.

In 1531 it was bought by Sir Richard Clement, a member of Henry VIII's court who added the gate tower and other extensions, and then passed into the ownership of the Selby family. In 1889 it was sold to Sir Thomas Colyer Fergusson, and in 1951 was acquired by an American businessman, Charles Henry Robinson, who left it to the National Trust on his death in 1985.

Stuart Page, the architect in charge of the restoration, said yesterday that it was a

fascinating mix of high technology and centuries old building methods. For example, much of the survey work was carried out by radar and results fed onto computers, whereas the outside rendering was with a mixture of limestone, sand, cattle manure and hairs.

Another feature of the project was that the public had been able to watch the restoration taking place. They would also be able to see work on the second phase, the repair of the gate tower, which expected to begin this summer.

The rooms on view for the first time are two dressing rooms, two bedrooms and a bathroom, the housekeeper's room, and a butler's pantry. Nearly all the furniture has come from recent bequests to the trust.

Almost £500,000 has been raised by appeal in the past two years, and a further £750,000 has come from grants and legacies. The house is open daily from April to the end of October, except Tuesdays and Saturdays.

Church news

Clergy resignations and retirements

The Rev George Dunning, Vicar, St Alban, South Norwood (Southwark), to retire as from 30 September.

The Rev Canon Stephen Huxley, Vicar, Wyham (Newcastle), to retire as from 30 June.

The Rev Canon Timothy Marshall, Vicar, Shirebrook, and an Honorary Canon of Derby Cathedral (Derby), to retire as from 30 April when he will be appointed a Canon Emeritus.

The Rev Cyril Munt, Rector, Portlock with Stoke Park (Bath and Wells), to retire as from 30 November.

The Rev Howard Pennington, Assistant Curate, St Mary Brookfield (London), to resign as from 31 March.

The Rev John Sartin, Rector, Donyatt with Ashill with Broadway (Bath and Wells), to retire as from 31 May.

The Rev Stanley Underhill, Rector, Dymchurch Salway Peter and Paul with Burnham, All Saints and Newchurch, Saints Peter and Paul (Canterbury), to retire as from 30 June.

Other appointments

Mr Tim Barry to be Acting Diocesan Registrar and Bishop's Acting Legal Secretary (Bath and Wells), as from 1 April, upon the resignation of Mr. N.M. Cavendish.

Church in Wales

Diocese of Llandaff

The Ven Douglas Gordon James to retire as Archdeacon of Margam, and in June from the Incumbency of Aberdare.

Cranwell graduation

Air Vice-Marshal J.S. Allison, Air Officer Commanding No 11 Group Royal Air Force Cranwell, was the reviewing officer at the graduation of 64 officers of no 139 initial officer training course and six officers of no 247 specialist entrant and re-entrant course from the Royal Air Force College Cranwell on March 26.

Prize winners
The Hennessy Trophy and Philip Seson Memorial Prize: Flying Officer L. A. Taylor, British Aircraft Corporation Trophy: Pilot Officer J. B. Bennett, Group Captain Williams' Memorial Trophy: Flying Officer M. G. Doyle.
General Duties Branch - Pilot Flying Officers: T. J. P. Burke, P. A. Burroughs, R. J. Chertie, A. J. Cowie, M. G. Doyle, G. C. Hindland, S. Woodland, C. P. J. Zarecky.
Pilot Officers: R. J. Harris, K. M. H. P. T. M. Pennington, J. B. Sheriff, C. M. S. Smith, I. Wright.
Acting Pilot Officers: R. F. E. Allison, N. J. Anderson, P. A. Cole, P. D. Cooper, I. C. Henshaw, J. M. Inman, D. P. Kane, D. R. K. Pennington, D. J. Richards, D. J. Rogers, N. D. Tynan.

General Duties Branch - Navigator Flying Officer P. A. Heath.
Acting Pilot Officer A. J. Wright.
General Duties Branch - Air Electronics Officer Flying Officer M. Bond.
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Sanctions to fall on Libya this month

Tories say Labour bid CND links

MEAN

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THE TIMES BUSINESS

WEDNESDAY APRIL 1 1992

BUSINESS EDITOR JOHN BELL

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TODAY IN BUSINESS WRONG NUMBER



Telepoint, licensed by Lord Young, the former trade secretary, and conceived as "the call box in your pocket", collapsed under the weight of public indifference
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SETTING SUN?

Japan's emergency economic package, intended to kick-start a faltering economy, failed to impress investors
Page 20

NEW POST

BUPA

Sir Bryan Nicholson, chairman of the Post Office, hopes to prescribe the right medicine at Bupa
Page 21

MEA CULPA

Building societies must stop blaming the housing market for their woes, says Mike Blackburn, head of the Leeds
Page 21

CLEAN UP



European Motor Holdings, whose finance director is Ann Wilson, is buying the Wilomatic car wash business
Tempos, page 22

THE POUND

US dollar 1.7350 (+0.0035)
German mark 2.8584 (+0.0014)
Exchange index 90.2 (+0.1)
Bank of England official close (4pm)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 share 1903.5 (-12.6)
FT-SE 100 2440.1 (-12.8)
New York Dow Jones 3257.38 (+22.14)
Tokyo Nikkei Avge 19345.95 (-323.36)

INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Base 10%
3-month interbank 10%
3-month deposit 10%
US: Prime Rate 6%
Federal Funds 4%
3-month Treasury Bills 4.04-4.03%
30-year bonds 100% 100%

CURRENCIES

London: New York
£ \$1.7374
£ DM 2.8571
£ Sfr 2.0086
£ FF 66.49
£ Yen 231.33
£ Index 90.2
ECU 50.714742
£ SDR 1.268767
London forex market close

GOLD

London Fixing:
AM 331.10
close 331.15
196.90
New York
Comex 334.15-344.65

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (May) \$18.05 bbl (\$17.95)

RETAIL PRICES

RPI: 136.3 February (1987=100)
* Denotes midday trading price

Property sector shaken by fallout

Shares suffer as Speyhawk falls to massive loss

BY JONATHAN PRYNN

THE property slump claimed another high-profile victim yesterday when Speyhawk announced pre-tax losses of £216.8 million for the year to end-September.

The figure was far worse than had been expected and sent shares tumbling throughout an already shell-shocked property sector. Shares in MEPC lost 6p to 306p and Slough Estates shed 7p to 166p.

Speyhawk shares fell from 11p to 2.5p in heavy turnover, during which 5.4 million shares, or more than 10 per cent of the company, changed hands. At the closing price, Speyhawk was valued at about £500,000, but huge debts mean that it has a negative net worth of about £70 million.

The stock market reaction to the Speyhawk figures reflected a growing concern over the health of the property market.

The Speyhawk news came within days of both Olympia & York, the world's largest property group, and Heron International, Britain's second biggest private company, revealing that they were in talks with their respective bankers.

Speyhawk's bottom line loss includes exceptional writedowns of £204.9 million compared with £18.8 million for the previous year. More than half the provisions related to the company's two major City of London developments, Cannon Bridge and Exchequer Court. Last year, the company incurred a £2.8 million pre-tax loss.

Speyhawk has been in talks with its 46 banks, led by Barclays and Citibank, since last summer and has "agreed in principle" a restructuring of the company's £300 million of debt. This will involve a subordination of about £75 million of debt into convert-

ible shares, which can be converted into ordinary share capital in the future, depending on the level of asset sales. The subordination would give Speyhawk net tangible assets and restore its technical solvency. The negotiations on the proposals are described as being "at an advanced stage" and will be put to shareholders on completion.

Trevor Osborne, Speyhawk's chairman and founder, said that the banks had been "responsive, supportive and helpful" in their approach to the company. Analysts said Speyhawk had been hit by overtrading, an overexposure to the South-East market and a mis-timing of the property cycle, which left the company with many developments still in the course of construction or only partly let as the recession deepened. "There is almost no value to an unfinished or semi-let office building in the City," said one analyst. Most commentators viewed the banks' decision to carry on supporting the company as a pragmatic move aimed at preventing the losses on their lending crystallising in their own profit and loss accounts. Another property analyst said: "I can't foresee a situation in which a £70 million

deficit on shareholders' funds can be made up - if anything it will get worse."

Mr Osborne said his priority would be to achieve letting and sales of completed schemes and maximise returns from the company's forward sold developments, including shopping centres in Wimbledon and Harrogate, and an office development in Croydon. The Wimbledon development is about half let and due to open this Christmas. However, the Cannon Bridge development still has about 200,000 sq ft of unlet space, even after the arrival of the newly merged Liffie market earlier this year.

Mr Osborne, who founded the company in 1965, said he did not apportion blame for what had happened to Speyhawk. He said the company was a victim of "the adverse conditions" in the property market, which had resulted in major developments halving in value between their start and completion. "I built up the company from nothing when I knew nothing, but I now have a great deal of experience and it should be easier the second time around," he said.

The writedowns mean that sales of properties this year should generate profits, but it is not thought that the company as a whole will return to profit until next year at the earliest. The loss per share was 829.7p compared with net assets per share of 438p in September 1990, the date of the last audited balance sheet. The company said that no dividends would be paid for some time.

Turnover slumped by more than 70 per cent to £76.4 million as sales dried up in the increasingly hostile trading market. The company was not helped in its sales programme by the last-minute failure to secure a takeover by a Swedish group in August 1990.



Osborne, founder

Pressure grows again over Lonrho deal with Libya

BY COLIN CAMPBELL

SHARES of Lonrho group, the trading conglomerate headed by Tiny Rowland, sank a further 13p to a fresh eight-year low of 65p yesterday on investor concern in the wake of Lonrho's recent Metropole hotel deal with the Libyans.

Yesterday's slide, sparked by the resignation of UBS Phillips & Drew as joint stockbroker to Lonrho, and compounded by suggestions that Lonrho was negotiating more asset sales, wiped off a further £88.5 million from market capitalisation. Market makers say the Libyan deal may have been the last straw for P&D after years of not being kept as fully informed as the broker would expect.

Paul Spicer, a Lonrho deputy chairman, had no comment about P&D's

resignation, but said that Societe Generale Strauss Turnbull "will remain as lead brokers to Lonrho", and that it had "always been loyal, and fabulous".

Pearson, the newspaper group that owns the *Financial Times*, declined to comment on the paper's own story that Pearson was "close to a deal to buy (from Lonrho) George Outram, publisher of *The Herald* newspaper in Glasgow". A Pearson spokesman said that Frank Barlow, Pearson's group managing director, "continues to decline to comment". Mr Spicer said: "You may quote me as saying: 'We have not sold our newspapers to Pearson'." Asked if Lonrho was dealing/negotiating with Westminster Press (a 100 per cent subsidiary of Pearson)

about any of Lonrho's newspaper interests, Mr Spicer said "Pearson was Pearson".

Adverse City reaction to Lonrho's deal to sell a third of its Metropole hotel chain to the Libyan Arab Foreign Investment Company still rages. Analysts continue to downgrade 1992 profit forecasts and many doubt the wisdom of dealing with the Libyans when United Nations sanctions are being voted on.

America's Fidelity Management and Research group recently bought a 9.8 per cent stake in Lonrho. Analysts say that Fidelity might be under pressure in America because of possible UN sanctions. It is understood that Fidelity is "relaxed" about the deal.

Gaddafi's card, page 13

Lloyd's may lose £1.6bn for 1989

BY OUR CITY STAFF

LATEST figures from Lloyd's underwriters suggest that the market can expect a loss of up to £1.6 billion when the official results for 1989 are announced in June.

The projections were compiled by the Lloyd's Underwriting Agents' Association (LUAA) at the end of January. The aggregate figures point to a loss in the range of £1.06 billion to £1.65 billion. However, they apply only to underwriting performance of 1989 and do not include further deterioration on open years dating from before 1989.

An application for injunctions preventing Lloyd's from steering names' deposits, launched by a group of names in the Commercial Court yesterday, has been adjourned until next week.

Letters, page 23

SAS lifts stake in British Midland

BY HARVEY ELLIOTT AND COLIN NARBROUGH

SIR Michael Bishop and his partners have sold shares in Airlines of Britain Holdings, parent company of British Midland, to SAS for £25 million, raising the Scandinavian airline's stake from 24.9 per cent to 40 per cent.

Sir Michael, aged 50, will remain the majority shareholder with a 58 per cent stake in Airlines of Britain, which also owns Manx Airlines and Loganair.

The deal was agreed by the Civil Aviation Authority, which said it had "no difficulty with the proposal". Both the European Commission and the Office of Fair Trading have been informed, but no objections are expected.

Sven Heidung, the SAS senior vice-president, who joins the ABH board as an executive director, made clear that the deal did not mean an end to SAS ambitions regarding the British airline, though he emphasised that the relation-

ship was long-term and friendly. "When the right time comes SAS might take a majority," he said. He emphasised that the deal gave SAS the right of first refusal to buy more shares in ABH from the majority owners.

However, Sir Michael said the increased SAS stake would give the staff an assurance that the airlines would remain independent. "We have had approaches from a number of other airlines who said they would be prepared to become partners if we ended our relationship with SAS. It is important that the staff know that the long-term independence and security of our business is assured rather than being put into the market place... As far as I am concerned, once I was 50 I thought it prudent to think about making provision for the future although I fully expect to carry on as chairman for as long as Lord King - and that gives me another 26 years."

Under the terms of the share sale, £12

million will be paid immediately, mainly to the three largest shareholders - Sir Michael, John Wolfe and Stuart Balmforth. A further £13 million will be paid during the next two years on condition the group, which made a £2.56 million profit last year, remains profitable.

BMA now has the second-largest number of slots at Heathrow with services to 14 cities in Europe and the UK. SAS, whose ground handling is carried out by BMA, is a major operator at the same airport with 20 flights a day to and from Scandinavia.

Mr Heidung, who ran SAS's European operations in the Eighties, said the deal could be a first step towards British Midland entering the European Quality Alliance that SAS formed with Austrian Airlines and Swissair. He plans to relocate from Stockholm to the Midlands this spring and underlined the friendly nature of the SAS-ABH relationship. He dismissed suggestions that ABH had gone to SAS for help.



Sad reflection: Nazmu Virani after his remand by magistrates yesterday

Virani is held in custody

BY JON ASHWORTH

NAZMU Virani, chairman and chief executive of Control Securities, the leisure and property group, has been remanded in custody on a charge of conspiring with others to falsify accounts to the value of \$4 million.

Mr Virani, aged 45, of Chartfield Avenue, Putney, south-west London, was

arrested on Monday by City of London police working with the Serious Fraud Office as part of an enquiry into the Bank of Credit and Commerce International.

He was charged and held in custody overnight at Bishoppate police station. He was remanded in custody by City of London magistrates

until April 7 and is expected to apply for bail today. A second man was questioned, then released on bail.

Mr Virani is accused of conspiring with Mohammed Moizul Haque and others to account falsely in furnishing audit confirmations to Price Waterhouse, the external auditor of BCCI (Overseas).

ABB buys Brel stake

BY ROSS TIEMAN

ASEA Brown Boveri is to become Britain's biggest rolling stock maker. The Swedish-Swiss engineering group has agreed to buy out the 40 per cent stake in Brel Group, the former British Rail engineer, held by Trafalgar House, its British partner.

The share transfer, for a nominal sum, will give ABB an 80 per cent stake in Brel. Management and employees will hold the remainder.

The agreement completes the assumption of control begun last October, when ABB drafted in its own executives to tackle Brel's mounting problems of late deliveries and losses. Brel, which employs 6,500 people, is likely to form the largest unit of the enlarged ABB Transportation Segment.

The extension of ABB ownership of Brel is the latest in a series of acquisitions as Europe's three biggest rolling stock makers, ABB, GEC-Alsthom, the Anglo-French group, and Siemens, of Germany, jockey for position as barriers come down between European national markets.

The European Commission is expected to look closely at this latest concentration of ABB's power. The company's transport business already employs 12,000 people in 17 countries. It is especially strong in Sweden, Spain, Portugal, Denmark, and Germany, where it is engaged in restructuring the Henschel railway equipment business.

An ABB spokesman said the agreement would assist the development of Brel as part of an integrated pan-European rolling stock business, and provide access to key ABB technology, particularly in electronic controls.

The deal also brings to an end Trafalgar House's ill-starred foray into the rolling stock business. Trafalgar House paid £15 million for its stake in Brel when it was privatised in April 1989.

The investment was subsequently written off after Brel got into mounting difficulties. Despite annual sales of £350 million, and a £1 billion plus order book, a succession of problems pushed Brel into losses.

Comment, page 23

Maine-Tucker

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Japanese announce 'emergency' measures

FROM JOANNA PITMAN IN TOKYO

THE Japanese government's economic planning agency has announced an "emergency economic package" aimed at stimulating Japan's faltering economy, the first since 1987, when the economy was stung by the rapid appreciation of the yen.

The package includes measures to encourage utilities and local government to make 75 per cent of their public works investments in the first half of the new fiscal year, which begins today.

The government will provide domestic demand worth ¥2 trillion (£9 billion), improve business and consumer sentiment and allow the government to achieve its 3.5 per cent annual economic growth target. The latter has been revised down from 3.7 per cent, against the actual 5.5 per cent recorded for 1990-1.

Weakness in the futures market and a sell-off of speculative stocks on the last day of the fiscal year left the Nikkei index 323.36 points lower at 19,345.95. The potentially positive effects of the expected cut in the official discount rate were overwhelmed by a feeling of "too little too late".

One Tokyo stock exchange trader said: "The financial markets have been crying out for a further ODR cut, but [Yasushi] Mieno [governor of the Bank of Japan] has held off for so long that the effects of a reduction when it comes will have already been discounted by the markets."

Highly sceptical that the package will be sufficient to boost an economy that shrank 0.2 per cent in the last quarter of 1991, the private sector has interpreted the package as a short-term political measure aimed at boosting economic confidence in advance of the July elections to the upper house of the Diet, Japan's parliament.

Kiichi Miyazawa, the

prime minister, said the package would ensure that "public and private investments in the first half of fiscal 1992 will increase ¥5 trillion from a year earlier". Amid widespread expectations of a cut — possibly today — in the discount rate, Mr Miyazawa said he trusts the judgment Yasushi Mieno.

Yesterday's emergency economic package urges the Bank of Japan to adopt a "flexible monetary policy", a thinly disguised call for a reduction in the ODR. Expectations rose in Tokyo markets of an imminent 0.75 per cent cut to 3.75 per cent. Tsutomu Hata, the finance minister, said he believes the new economic package will allow Japan to achieve the government-estimated growth rate of 3.5 per cent in fiscal 1992.

Economists in Tokyo branded the emergency measures as little more than window dressing, saying the economy needs new money before it can be revived. "If the government is not prepared to put new money into the economy, this package will do nothing to change corporate sentiment or sentiment in the financial market," said Jesper Koll of SG Warburg.

Yesterday's news is expected to be followed by a supplementary budget in the autumn to boost domestic spending in the second half of the year. Private sector economists have forecast a fiscal package worth at least ¥3 trillion and a reduction in the ODR to 3.5 per cent will be necessary before the economy can rebound fully.

"The economy needs a full 1 per cent cut in the lending rate, a ¥4-5 trillion fiscal stimulus and measures to boost the stock market," said Stephen Cohen, managing director of Warburg Investment Trust Management in Tokyo.



Winning back some of the world: Nicholas Oppenheimer signed the agreement

Tyne Tees recovery averts loss

BY MARTIN WALLER

A SHARP resurgence in the second half saved Tyne Tees Television Holdings, the ITV contractor for the North-East, from a 1991 loss. The company scraped into a £213,000 pre-tax profit against £5.78 million, despite a £2.95 million halfway loss.

A final of 9.5p makes a total down from 19p to 14.5p. Advertising revenue fell 6 per cent.

However, the first two months are likely to be ahead by about 7 per cent, against a recovering industry average of 10 per cent.

For the second half of 1991 pre-tax profit was 35 per cent ahead of the comparable period in 1990. The successful £14.5 million bid for its ITV franchise cost Tyne Tees £3.4 million after tax, taken as an extraordinary item. The company remains confident it can remain profitable into the next franchise period and for 1992.

De Beers scoops Siberian gems back into sales fold

BY COLIN CAMPBELL, MINING CORRESPONDENT

DE BEERS, the diamond group, has won back into its Central Selling Organisation marketing fold the Siberian republic of Sakha (Yakutia), on whose behalf, and under a new sales agreement, the CSO will market all the republic's gem diamond production.

Sakha, an autonomous republic within the Russian federation, contains the most valuable and richest of the diamond mines in the Commonwealth of Independent States. By decree in December, Sakha was granted the right to market 10 per cent of its rough gems for independent sale.

The right was, however, never exercised. After recent negotiations between De Beers and the republic, Sakha has now agreed formally that the CSO will handle marketing arrangements for all 100 per cent of its gem production.

This serves as proof of the continuing close relations

between De Beers Centenary and the Russian federation's diamond producers," Mr Oppenheimer said.

Russia is giving Vneshtorgbank, its foreign trade bank, exclusive rights to sell gold and precious metals abroad on behalf of the Russian government and the central bank.

The bank would also be the repository for Russia's foreign reserves and the central bank's currency stabilisation fund. A resolution on the changes was passed by the President of the Supreme Soviet on Monday.

In addition, the bank would become Russia's agent for attracting foreign credits. These credits would be guaranteed by the Russian government and the central bank. A Vneshtorgbank official pointed out that Vneshtorgbank, the foreign trade bank of the former Soviet Union, had previously had a monopoly on government sales of gold.

Krupp denies problem over Hoesch merger

KRUPP, the German steelmaker, has denied speculation that the planned merger with Hoesch is in danger of being blocked by Germany's federal cartel office (Wolfgang Münchau writes).

Krupp made a hostile takeover bid for its Ruhr steelmaking rival last October. A spokesman for Krupp said talk of a negative cartel office ruling was "absolute nonsense". He said both companies have been in negotiations with the cartel office about the merger.

The rumours arose from a briefing given to journalists last week by Kajo Neukirchen, the president of Hoesch. Herr Neukirchen spoke about the theoretical possibility of a negative cartel office intervention. A spokesman for Krupp said yesterday that he was "talking off the top of his head". Krupp said the merger will go ahead as planned.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Macfarlane falls but dividend increases

PRE-TAX profits at Macfarlane Group (Clansman), the Glasgow packaging company, fell by a quarter to £6.85 million over 1991, but the company has maintained its 19-year record of annual dividend increases. Difficult trading conditions and accounting changes, which required the company to place £804,000 of restructuring costs above the line as an exceptional item, hit profits.

The final 2.49p dividend makes 4.24p for the year, a 5 per cent increase. Lord Macfarlane of Bearsden, chairman, said he was confident that the profit setback was temporary and that it was prudent to pay a higher dividend. The increase reflected "the board's confidence in the underlying strength of the business".

Avonmore advances

ORGANIC growth and global expansion helped Avonmore Foods, the Irish food and dairy products group, lift pre-tax profits 22.6 per cent to £16.3 million (£15.2 million) last year. Group turnover advanced 15.1 per cent to £157.2 million. Operating profits from the dairy products division jumped to £15.1 million (£19.6 million) on turnover of £134.9 million (£130.3 million). The meat division saw profits dip to £15.2 million (£15.3 million). There was an extraordinary debit of £1.55 million. Earnings per A share were £10.83p (£10.9p). The final dividend on the A shares is £1.65p (£1.5p), making £1.3p (£1.275p), while the B shares receive a final of £1.1p (£1.05p), making £1.75p (£1.7p).

Johnston Press up

JOHNSTON Press, the regional weekly newspaper publishing and book-selling group, is raising its dividend after an 8.4 per cent rise in full-year profits. Improved efficiency and tighter cost controls enabled the Edinburgh company, which publishes 60 titles spread from Fife to Sussex, to lift pre-tax profits to £7.6 million in the year end-December, against £6.74 million last time. The figures were boosted by reduced net interest costs and an exceptional gain of £48,000. A final dividend of 3.5p (3.25p) gives an improved total of 5.5p (5p). Earnings per share rise to 18.7p (15.9p). The shares added 5p to 298p.

BNB raises payout

BNB Resources, the recruitment, advertising and public relations group, is raising its dividend despite a 40.3 per cent decline in full year profits. Pre-tax profits slid to £2.69 million in the year to end-December, from £4.51 million, on turnover down from £65.3 million to £54.9 million. The company said the results were "highly respectable in view of the worst trading conditions experienced in our industry sectors for a decade". BNB's recruitment companies remained profitable. The final dividend is being raised to 3.3p (3.1p), giving shareholders 4.9p (4.6p). Earnings drop to 8.3p a share (14.5p). BNB shares firmed 2p to 37p.

Wardle quits Ferry

PETER Wardle, the non-executive chairman of Ferry Pickering Group, has resigned from the board of that company with immediate effect because of the recent failure of another company with which he is associated as a non-executive director. Mr Wardle believes it is not appropriate for him to remain on the board of a listed company in such circumstances. Graham Nixon, a former chief executive of Ferry Pickering, has been appointed executive chairman of the company. Peter Godfrey, a group executive director with operational responsibility, has been appointed chief executive of Ferry Pickering.

Watts, Blake drops

WATTS, Blake, Beane & Co, the ceramic products group, says that lost sales in the year ended December, coupled with generally depressed trading conditions, left pre-tax profits 27 per cent lower at £5.7 million. Sales rose by 9 per cent to £61.4 million. There are tentative indications that trading conditions are improving, the company says, but "another hard year lies ahead". Dr Ingram Lenton, the chairman, says that further overhead reductions are planned. The final dividend is held at 6.6p, making an unchanged total of 9.3p a share.

Car wash takeover

RICHARD Palmer's European Motor Holdings is buying Casemount, parent company of Wilcomatic, the biggest supplier and servicer of automatic car washes in Britain, in a deal funded by a £17.4 million, four-for-three rights issue. European is paying £5.5 million — £1.7 million in cash and the balance in new shares to be taken by the vendors, and repaying £12.9 million of debt taken in with the 1989 Wilcomatic management buy-out. Wilcomatic has service agreements with over half the estimated 4,000 car washes on petrol forecourts in Britain and says its machines washed 52 million cars last year.

Tempus, page 22

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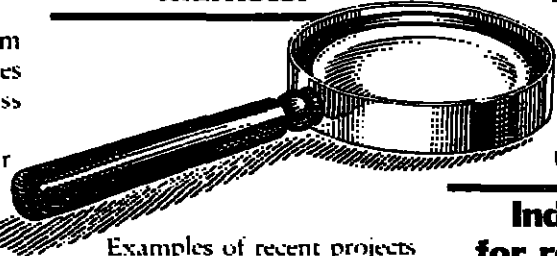
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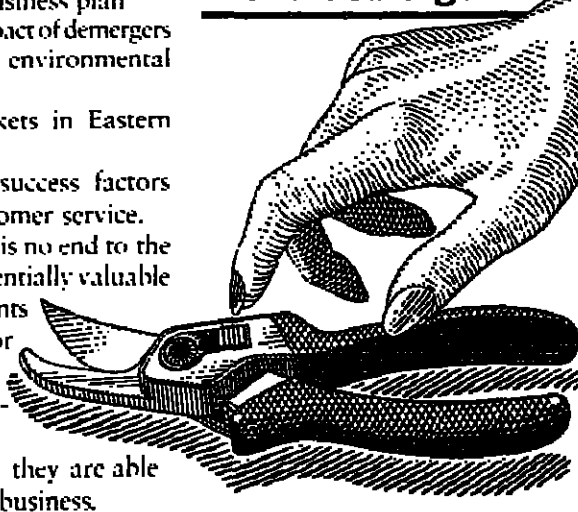
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NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Annual General Meeting of Shareholders will be held on Thursday 23rd April 1992 at 12.00 hours at the office of the Company, Keizersgracht 674, Amsterdam. Shareholders wishing to attend the general meeting of the Company must deposit their shares not less than seven days before the meeting with Hollandse Koopmansbank N.V. Keizersgracht 674, Amsterdam or with Hill Samuel Bank Limited, 45 Beech Street, London EC2P 2LX. A deposit certificate will be issued to such shareholders which, upon surrender, will entitle them to vote at the meeting.

Holders of shares registered with the Company in its Shareholders' Register must inform the Board of Managing Directors in writing at least four days prior to the meeting that they intend to attend the meeting in person or by proxy.

Holders of Participation Certificates issued by Royal Exchange Assurance who wish to attend and vote at the meeting must contact the Trustee Department of Royal Exchange Assurance, One Aldgate, London EC3N 1RE at least ten days before the meeting.

Royal Exchange Assurance is prepared to issue a power of attorney for the same number of shares held in trust as the certificate holders shall have deposited with Royal Exchange Assurance.

Copies of the Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 31st December 1991 and of the Resolutions to be put before the meeting will be available at the offices of the above named.

By order of the Board
HOLLANDSE KOOPMANSBANK N.V.
MANAGEMENT
AMSTERDAM
1st April 1992

COMPANY BRIEFS

MAYFLOWER CORP (Fin)
Pre-tax: £1.07m
EPS: 1.91p (1.56p)
Div: Nil (nil)

SERVOMEX (Fin)
Pre-tax: £2.08m (£1.94m)
EPS: 13.8p (12.7p)
Div: 3.9p, mkg 5.7p

HEADLAM GROUP (Fin)
Pre-tax: £321,000
EPS: 2.38p (2.9p)
Div: 1.65p, mkg 2.4p

ESTATES & GENERAL
Pre-tax: £2.3m (£2.77m)
EPS: 4.59p (4.92p)
Div: 2.52p, mkg 3.75p

GARTON ENGINEERING
Pre-tax: £1.38m (£1m)
EPS: 25.84p (17.06p)
Div: 5.25p, mkg 7p (7p)

SWALLOWFIELD (Fin)
Pre-tax: £2.2m (£2.37m)
EPS: 14p (16p)
Div: 3.9p, mkg 6.1p

GASKELL (Fin)
Pre-tax: £255,000
EPS: 3.1p (16.1p)
Div: 5.5p, mkg 8.5p

AB ELECTRONIC (Int)
Pre-tax: Loss £3.95m
EPS: 13.7p (6.2p)
Div: Nil (nil)

MOWAT GROUP
Pre-tax: Loss £1.97m
EPS: 1.28p (EPS: 0.65p)
Div: Nil (0.5p)

TRAFFORD PARK
Pre-tax: £1.62m (£1.44m)
EPS: 1.67p (1.435p)
Div: 0.85p (0.85p)

JACOBS (JOHN J) (Fin)
Pre-tax: £812,000
EPS: 1.90p (3.63p)
Div: 1.4p, mkg 1.9p

BILSTON & BATTERSEA
Pre-tax: £120,000
EPS: 2.0p (5.1p)
Div: Nil, mkg nil (3p)

AFRICAN LAKES (Fin)
Pre-tax: £1.55m (£1.53m)
EPS: 6.48p (7.77p)
Div: 2p (2p)

DELANEY GROUP (Fin)
Pre-tax: Loss £474,000
EPS: 0.6p (2.4p)
Div: Nil

Last time's profit was £449,000. Extraordinary debits of £1.44m (£1.85m). Sales rose to £27.4m (£23.8m). Gearing eliminated.

Last time's profit was £458,000. Last time's total dividend was 2.4p. Extraordinary debits of £215,000 (£158,000).

Final results. Last time's total dividend was 7.75p. Earnings are fully diluted. Net asset value was 183p.

Final results. Turnover fell to £19.3m (£22.9m). Demand is still in the main depressed in both the UK and Europe.

Last time's profit was £1.33m. Last time's total dividend was 8.5p. Turnover fell to £30.2m (£40.3m). Gearing static at 38%.

Results are for 15-month period, compared with previous year. Last time's profit was £651,000. Exceptional debit of £311,000.

Interim results. Turnover fell to £4.95m (£8.01m). Reduced administrative charges and lower interest burden helped results.

Last time's profit was £999,000. Last time's total dividend was 2.9p. Exceptional credit of £100,000 (debit of £150,000).

Final results. Last time's profit was £336,000. Turnover dropped to £3.99m (£4.83m). First-quarter sales are up on last time.

Turnover fell to £45.2m (£49.4m). Extraordinary gain of £17,713, compared with a gain of £40,403 last time.

Last time's loss was £285,000. Extraordinary debits of £131,000 (£746,000). Turnover fell to £21.8m (£26.7m).

Decline in building output forecast to last until 1994

By ROSS TIEMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

BUILDING industry output is set to fall 4.5 per cent this year, and show no recovery until 1994, according to a forecast by the National Council of Building Materials Producers (BMP).

If Labour were to win the election, output would decline an additional 3 to 4 per cent this year and continue to fall next, BMP's forecasting panel said.

The panel, comprising representatives from more than 25 member firms, believes modest expansion of some forms of public sector construction and repairs under Labour would be insufficient to balance lower spending by

the much larger private sector.

However, a study last year by Goldman Sachs, the stockbroker, concluded that the building materials industry would do better than most under Labour.

BMP's latest forecast paints a more gloomy picture of the construction industry's prospects, even under a Conservative government, than its last forecast, issued in November. BMP's expectation of a 4.5 per cent decline in output this year remains unchanged. But instead of a 2 per cent increase next year, expected earlier, BMP now expects no growth next year.

However, there should be a 2 per cent rise in 1994, it says.

The panel has been repeatedly forced to downgrade its predictions because of the failure of recovery signs to emerge. Last August, BMP believed output would grow 1.5 per cent next year. The forecasts are the first by an industry group to differentiate explicitly between the policy impact of the two largest parties.

The construction industry is far more dependent on Britain's domestic market than manufacturing as a whole. It is also highly cyclical. Few industries have shown a more startling collapse in demand as a result of Britain's recession.

BMP believes that whichever party wins the election, the government is likely to face pressure for an interest rate rise. However, it fears that a Labour administration would be severely tested by financial markets, and would face a breakdown in consumer confidence and spending, partly because of its income tax plans.

Under the Conservatives, BMP says, total housebuilding will rise 6.5 per cent this year and 10 per cent next, from a very low base. Under Labour, it would not rise until 1994, despite higher spending by the public sector, BMP predicts.

Capital spending by the water companies is expected, by BMP, to offset the decline in factory and warehouse construction, supporting the private industrial sector. Because of pressure on the public sector borrowing requirement, public non-housing spending is expected to fall next year and in 1994 after a 2 per cent rise this year.

However, "much needed" public sector repair and maintenance would benefit from Labour, the BMP says.

In the devastated office building sector, BMP has scaled back its forecast decline for this year from 30 to 25 per cent, because falling prices have enabled developers to get more work for their money. However, BMP sees no prospect of an upturn in this sector. "The industry is in for another difficult year," BMP says.



Dogged by recession: Don Lewin mistakenly thought Clinton would be immune

Clinton Cards goes into the red

By OUR CITY STAFF

CLINTON Cards, the greetings cards retailer, felt the full effect of the recession last year, which left the company with a pre-tax loss. Don Lewin, the group's chairman, said he had not expected the recession to go on so long or to be so comprehensive.

"I've been through several recessions and they have more or less left us unaffected," he said. "I thought this one would be the same. We are in the sentiment business, selling low-ticket items, and we are usually immune."

Overall the group made a pre-tax loss in the year to February 1 of £163,000, down from profits of £5.02 million. Sales rose from £59 million to £70.5 million and operating profits fell from £5.77 million to £579,000. The loss per share was 0.96p, compared with earnings of 20.4p, and the group has chosen to pay a reduced final dividend of 2.25p, making a total for the year of 3.75p, down from 5.25p.

Costs have been reduced. Around 200 jobs, 10 per cent of the workforce, were cut. During the year 14 shops were opened, four were

closed and a further three stores were relocated.

Mr Lewin is confident of an upturn this year. The last eight weeks have been good and some shop sales are currently 8 per cent ahead of last year. "We had a good Christmas, a good Valentine's Day and a good Mother's Day," Mr Lewin said.

Leeds chief says societies' ills are self-inflicted

By OUR MONEY EDITOR

BUILDING societies should stop blaming the housing market and the economy for all their ills, Mike Blackburn, the chief executive of the Leeds, said yesterday.

Mr Blackburn, who was chairing a building society conference at the Portman Hotel in London, said: "Many of the financial problems being suffered by building societies today are self-inflicted. They are the result of business strategies which in today's harsh light of recession are seen to be flawed."

"Those that ventured into commercial lending in a big way have generally suffered major provisioning costs. Those that built up large estate agencies have discovered the true cost of bad timing."

He was also critical of societies that went into equity release mortgages on the back of a rising market and now regret doing so.

The Leeds, the fifth-largest society, was one of few to report a double-figure increase in 1991 profits. Its pre-tax profits rose 11 per cent to £190.2 million after total provisions including writing off interest of £58 million.

Mr Blackburn was critical of the government when it was holding negotiations with societies last December to set up £1 billion of mortgage rescue schemes. At the time, he recalled that it was John Major who, as Chancellor, had said of the high interest rates: "If it isn't hurting it isn't working."

Yesterday, Mr Blackburn said: "However much we may blame the handling of the economy — and I confess to being pretty vocal, if not brass-necked, on the subject myself — there is no doubt that for many societies, diversification has simply meant that they were saddled with several millstones."

He added: "My own view is that the turmoil we have all

faced in recent times has become a permanent feature of life in the financial services sector. It may prove to be cyclical, but it is certainly not an aberration."

Mark Boleat, director general of the Building Societies Association, told the conference that the future of societies was not entirely in their own hands. Societies were threatened by the very high public sector borrowing requirement, which would mean that National Savings would be used to raise funds, he added.

Norcros sells to cut debts

NORCROS, the building materials, printing and packaging group, has cut debts by selling a number of properties in Essex and Oxfordshire for a total of £39 million (Philip Pangalos writes).

The proceeds from the disposals, of which £2.6 million will be deferred for up to three years, will be used to reduce the group's borrowings to below £120 million. This represents gearing of about 80 per cent, compared with 100 per cent at the interim stage. Michael Doherty, chief executive, said the group hopes to reduce the ratio to below 50 per cent over the next year. The disposals include two factories at Braintree, Essex, and Wantage, Oxfordshire, which will raise £22.75 million. Both have been leased back to Norcros for 25 years, with five yearly reviews, at initial rents amounting to £2.6 million per annum.

The remaining properties are part of the development division, which stopped trading about 18 months ago and will realise £16.2 million.

Nurdin suffers from Sundays

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH

SUNDAY trading by the supermarket groups and the effects of the recession on caterers and independent grocers have affected Nurdin & Peacock, the cash and carry chain in which SHV, the Makro-owning Dutch group, has a 9.4 per cent stake.

Nigel Hall, the group's finance director, said that the decision by the major supermarket groups to open on Sunday affected the trade of independent grocery customers and consequently sales at Nurdin & Peacock, but he said it was difficult to quantify how much of the sales decline was due to Sunday opening and how much to the general economic climate.

"Since December, fewer supermarkets are opening on Sundays and the situation has recovered. But there is the possibility that they will open on mass at Easter or next Christmas and I hope we will be in a better position to respond," he said.

Overall group pre-tax profits rose 7 per cent to £27.6 million in the year to December 29. Sales rose 6.2 per cent to £1.37 billion but like-for-like sales fell 4.5 per cent. Three branches were opened and the group now has 16 trading seven days a week. Interest receivable fell from

£4.62 million to £3.78 million and earnings per share fell from 15.6p to 15p because of a £1.9 million deferred tax credit included in the 1990 results. Excluding the tax credit, earnings per share increased 7 per cent. A 3.6p final (3.3p), makes 5.56p — an increase of 7 per cent.

Mr Hall said that apart from a very small increase in the SHV shareholding there had been no change in the group's relationship with Makro and despite rumours of a bid last year, no approach had been made. The group is watching the development of American-style Warehouse Clubs in Britain with interest.

Three new sales forces have been established and the group is experimenting with a delivery service for caterers. Richard Fulford, the group's chairman, said that last year had been an extremely difficult year. "Our planned capital expenditure programme for 1992 will increase to £45 million, primarily on new units and refurbishment to existing branches, as we continue our heavy investment for the future. Sales this year to date are up on last but margins remain under pressure in a highly competitive market place." The shares fell 8p to 156p.

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Wellcome picks sale managers

Robert Fleming, global coordinator for Wellcome Trust's planned international sale of part of its 74 per cent holding in Wellcome, which is likely to take place in early July, has named eight regional lead managers for the offering, confirming that it aims to spread shareholdings across the world.

Apart from America and Japan, there will be separate managers for Switzerland, France and Germany. Cazeneuve and SG Warburg will lead in Britain with Fleming's affiliate, Jardine Fleming, leading in the Pacific rim and Fleming itself handling the rest.

Vaux buys pubs
Vaux Group, the North-East brewer and hotelier, has paid £13.5 million for 113 public houses bought from Whitbread and Inntrpreneur Estates, the Courage-Grand Met joint venture. Vaux now has almost 900 pubs.

Croda cuts
Croda International's shares rose by 17p to 163p yesterday, despite a cut in the final dividend from 6.9p to 4.75p. Pre-tax profits fell to £21.3 million (£33.7 million).

Tempos, page 22

Main American index improves

By COLIN NARBROUGH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

FRESH evidence that America's economic recovery is re-establishing itself was provided by the government's main economic forecasting gauge, which showed a 0.8 per cent rise in February, and by an upward revision to the January figure.

This was the first consecutive monthly gain in the index of leading indicators since mid-1991. The January rise was put at 1 per cent, up from the 0.9 per cent initially reported.

The improvement was on a broad front, reflecting a longer working week, money supply growth, higher building permits, rising raw materials prices, improved consumer confidence, bigger consumer goods orders and slower deliveries. Fears that the recovery could peter out again, as it did last year, prompted 100 leading American economists to write an open letter to President Bush on Monday, demanding action, including an interest rate cut.

The Bush administration has publicly voiced its confidence in the recovery, but had coupled its confidence to the Federal Reserve being able to ensure adequate growth in the money supply.

The latest index of leading

indicators adds to the evidence of recovery that was most markedly provided by official figures on new home construction and the pickup in sales of existing houses.

The bureau of labour statistics has revealed that about 650,000 Americans who became unemployed early in the recession did not figure in the jobless data. In the year to March 1991, the undercount removed 40 per cent of those losing their jobs from the official lists, partly due to bankruptcies and the call-up for the Gulf conflict.

In France, a special committee headed by Pierre Bérégovoy, the finance minister, has downgraded growth expectations for this year. The gross domestic product is now expected to expand by only 2 per cent this year, against the 2.2 per cent assumed in the budget. Consumer price inflation, currently at an annual 3 per cent, is expected to slow to an annual 2.8 per cent this year.

The finance ministry said the improvement in the American economy probably heralded a pickup in growth worldwide. It expects world economic growth to be growing by 2.5 to 3 per cent next year.

TIP must travel hard road

By MARTIN WALLER

JIM Davis, chairman of TIP Europe, the trailer rental group, has warned shareholders that 1992 will not be comfortable. But TIP, which has unveiled pre-tax profits up from £2.46 million to £3.72 million in the half-year to end-January, can face the year with confidence after its financial restructuring, he added.

Shareholders, who put up a further £29 million in a cash call late last year, are rewarded with a higher half-year dividend of 0.64p (0.56p) on the increased share capital.

Mr Davis said the restructuring had provided the necessary stability and flexibility to allow the group to resume selective investment in core businesses. But he added: "The continuing recession in the UK and now weakening demand in continental Europe means that TIP Europe, like most other companies, is unlikely to have an easy year."

Operating profits fell by 12 per cent to £11.3 million. Mr Davis said British demand remained depressed. But despite an 8.5 per cent fall in average utilised units, rental revenue marginally increased. Continental demand fell away but was still above British levels.

A knight replaces a lord at Bupa

By LINDSAY COOK, MONEY EDITOR



Nicholson: taking over

SIR Bryan Nicholson, the chairman and chief executive of the Post Office, is to be the next chairman of Bupa, Britain's largest health insurance group.

He is taking over from Lord Wigoder, QC, who is retiring after 11 years. He joins Bupa in October, when he also becomes part-time chairman at the Post Office. He will remain at the Post Office in this capacity until next March to allow the government time to choose his successor.

Lord Wigoder, aged 71, postponed his retirement to

help Bupa after it announced that losses in its insurance business had topped £61 million in 1990 and Peter Jacobs took over as chief executive. The group reported a pre-tax profit of £1.3 million for last year earlier this month, although the insurance business still lost £40.7 million before investment income was taken into account.

Bupa expanded from health insurance to being a provider of healthcare as well during Lord Wigoder's time. It had no hospitals when he joined in 1981, but it is now Britain's

largest private hospitals group with 1,600 beds. The number of people covered by Bupa increased from 1 million in 1981 to a peak of 3.5 million in 1990, but has since fallen to 3.3 million.

Sir Bryan was the chairman of the Manpower Services Commission from 1984 to 1987 and the chairman of Rank Xerox (UK) before that. Lord Wigoder, who will remain an honorary member of Bupa, said: "I am delighted to know that I will be succeeded by a chairman of the calibre of Sir Bryan."

MILTON KEYNES



Milton Keynes is one of the most successful locations for business and for life. From 1st April, the Commission for the New Towns takes responsibility for the outstanding development opportunities in Milton Keynes.

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Survivors try to make the cellular telephone upwardly mobile again

The portable phone business has suffered a number of early failures. Mark Newman assesses its chances of staging a recovery



Twilight zone: Lord Young's policy to expand the cell phone market became disconnected

So many people bought mobile phones in the late Eighties that the Celnat and Vodafone cellular radio telephone networks began to creak and shudder under the weight of calls. Subscribers found that making a call from their car on the M25 was about as easy as trying to sell a raincoat in the Gobi Desert.

While Celnat and Vodafone increased capacity, the trade and industry department seized on a British success story. Lord Young, then trade secretary, licensed seven new competitors using two other technologies to make Britain a nation of mobile phone users.

Telepoint was an economy one-way communications system for business people out on the road. Personal communications networks (PCN) offered a second generation cellular technology that might replace the ordinary telephone.

Three years on, almost as many subscribers are handing back their phones as there are new people buying them. Having grown by 95 per cent in 1988, 70 per cent in 1989 and 34 per cent in 1990, the cellular telephone population grew by just 7 per cent last year to 1.23 million. Six out of the seven new competitors — four telepoint and three PCN systems — have been sold, wound up, or merged.

Celnat and Vodafone are more worried by the recession than any threat from telepoint or PCN. Did the DTI jump too fast into a confusion of untried technologies or is the drive to a mass mobile communications market just taking a recessionary detour? The answer lies somewhere in the middle.

Certainly, the telepoint experiment was a disaster. As Peter Grindley and Saadet Tokar, of the London Business School, say this month in a report on the telepoint fiasco, "rarely has a product had such a total lack of interest".

Telepoint was conceived as a call box in your pocket. You could make calls wherever you saw a sign with your system's name on it. The signs were located in city centres, stations and motorway service stations.

Users shunned the service as it only allowed outgoing calls. The report also says: "It was launched with three incompatible systems so that users were never sure whether their handset could be used or not."

As for the service operators, they "made almost no effort to publicise the system". Three of the four telepoint systems, including BT's Zonephone, were wound up last year. After a year in service they had only 5,000 customers between them.

The three PCN networks are not due to start operating until late 1992 or early 1993. The need for heavy investment of between £500 million and £1 billion for each network over the next few years has, however, already scared off many of the original shareholders.

Two of the PCN companies, Mercury Personal Communications and Unitel, agreed to merge last month, while the third, Microtel, was sold to Hutchison Telecom, of Hong Kong, in July 1991. The merger between Mercury Personal Communications and Unitel followed a year of desperate searching for new shareholders to replace three of the original four companies holding stakes in Unitel.

This coming and going of shareholders and the high investment requirements are likely to delay the launch of at least one of the PCN systems. David Steadman, the managing director of Hutchison Telecom UK, believes that the systems could also be delayed because "there are several technology problems we don't know the answer to".

PCN is a highly sophisticated digital system and the UK will be the first country to have PCN networks.

When Lord Young unveiled his plans for PCN in 1989, he called it "a new generation of mobile systems" that would be "distinct from cellular radio systems". By now, it is clear that anything PCN operators will be able to do, Celnat and Vodafone will also be able to do, probably as well. Vodafone has already announced details of what it calls a micro-cellular network which will open on the same day as the first PCN service at similar price levels.

The DTI's decision in 1985 to license Celnat and Vodafone to operate the first systems in competition, when other European countries only had one network, has been a success. John Redwood, the government spokesman on telecommunications, said proudly in October that the decision had resulted in a "rapid increase in the number of subscribers that has put the UK in the lead in mobile telephony in Europe". Britain has more than twice as many cellular telephone users as Germany, France or Italy.

Lord Young's decision to license seven more mobile telephone operators — all in the same year — has, however, been heavily criticised. In particular, the DTI has come under fire for announcing the PCN initiative on the same day as awarding the four telepoint licences. James Dodd, a telecommunications analyst at Kleinwort Benson Securities, believes that the timing of the announcement "rather cut the telepoint initiative off at the knees".

Derek Arnold, the chief executive of the now defunct Mercury Callpoint, one of the four telepoint li-

censes, says the government "shot telepoint in the foot" with its policy. The DTI also raised a few eyebrows by awarding three PCN licences when it had been expected to award only two. Richard Goswell, the managing director of Mercury Personal Communications, had always maintained that "three PCN operators is too many" because of the high investment requirements.

Mr Goswell's view is supported by Arthur D Little, the American management consultancy. This indicates that the maximum number of cellular telephone operators that any market can support is between three and four. The UK was meant to have five operators — two cellular and three PCN — and even now that it only has four, it could be one too many according to Arthur D Little.

Mr Redwood's answer to accusations of a reckless government approach to awarding licences is that "companies approached the DTI wishing to exploit a new technology and we did not promise every pioneer a pot of gold".

Many companies that were to have played a role in the mobile communications bonanza have fallen by the wayside over the last two years, but one has reaped a harvest from the misfortune of others. Until 1990, Hutchison Telecom

was little known outside Hong Kong. A buying spree in Britain has since brought it a PCN licence, a telepoint licence, a mobile data licence and a radio paging business. Mr Steadman reckons that this has cost only half as much as if Hutchison had entered the market one or two years earlier.

Resurrecting the telepoint initiative is Hutchison's first heroic task; it is the only telepoint developer left so is under no competitive pressure to launch, and says it is "testing the system to destruction" before putting a product on the market.

The service will, however, be launched in city centres by the end of the year. This time, telepoint will be marketed as a service for people who already own cordless handsets that can be used at home or in the office and do not need to buy a special new handset.

Unfortunately, it will not be possible to use the cordless telephones currently available for telepoint since it uses different technology known as CT2. CT2 handsets are expected to be available on the market shortly. Manufacturers will also market them as cordless telecom systems for offices.

Hutchison is hoping that once people have bought CT2 phones for their homes or offices, it will be possible to persuade them to pay a subscription fee of around £10 per month to use them on the telepoint network. Such is Mr Steadman's confidence in telepoint that he believes "people will adopt cordless telephony in mass numbers before they will adopt cellular".

Mr Goswell, at Mercury, believes that PCN will also be a huge business. While many independent forecasters have toned down their original estimates of between 10 million and 14 million subscribers to personal communications systems by the year 2000, he is still sticking to his belief that it will be the lower end of this bracket.

Mercury Personal Communications hopes to persuade people to replace their fixed BT line with a Mercury PCN phone. Initially, however, it seems likely that Mercury will position its service somewhere between the cellular systems and the ordinary fixed telephone service. The first PCN subscribers will be a combination of business people who have not been able to afford a cellular phone and the upper end of the residential market.

In their report on the "opportunities and pitfalls" of the mobile communications industry in the Nineties, Messrs Grindley and Tokar say the market is not in doubt. Malcolm Ross, a senior consultant at Arthur D Little, also claims "there is substantial underlying demand and a willingness to pay for personal communications".

The real question is whether the PCN and telepoint operators will be able to provide the types of services that match the needs of consumers. If they cannot, an accusing finger may again be pointed towards a government that tried to take the fast road to making us a nation of mobile phone users.

Spreading that Wellcome mat

Wellcome shares are fast regaining their poise after news that the Wellcome Trust is planning to float part of its stock in the summer. They climbed 47p yesterday to £10.49, but remain some way off the peak of £11.73 reached early in February. The planned offer unsettled the market initially. The prospect of a £4 billion sale quickly wiped out the sizeable scarcity element in the price. Some holders also took profits, hardly surprising given that the shares were a mere £5 little more than 12 months ago.

The announcement that Flemings, global co-ordinator for the sale, had appointed the blue chip houses of Cazenove and Warburg to lead the issue in Britain was warmly received in the market, reinforcing the view that there is still excellent value in the shares despite their meteoric rise in the past year. Also helping to lift Wellcome's price yesterday was the thought that existing holders may be given preferential rights in the forthcoming issue. If, as appears increasingly likely, the offer generates strong international demand from continental Europe as well as America and the Far East, a prior presence on the share register may prove worthwhile and even profitable insurance.

Most attention has been focused on Retrovir, the group's anti-Aids treatment, but the main growth product in the near future will probably prove to be the herpes drug Zovirax, whose users are widening. Last year these two compounds alone generated sales growth of 31 and 34 per cent respectively. Analysts foresee operating margins widening to 30 per cent in the next couple of years while pre-tax profits climb from £403 million last year to around £620 million in the 12 months to the end of 1993. Wellcome shares look set fair with strong growth in the pipeline, an excellent research record and greater potential to boost earnings through new products than bigger rivals such as Glaxo.

Slow in Tokyo

Problems, problems. Japan's economic planning agency is worried. The economy grew by only about 4.5 per cent in 1991 and shrank by 0.2 per cent in the final quarter, causing forecasters to predict a sharp brake on growth to little more than 2.5 per cent this year. An emergency economic package was brought in on the last day of Japan's financial year, using the classic Japanese method of bringing forward public sector capital spending into the first half of the new fiscal year. There is already a strong hint of a second package in the autumn.

The key to boosting growth, as in any other economy, is confidence. Things are worse than the headline figures might suggest. Industrial production, which dropped sharply in the last quarter of 1991, is expected to keep falling for at least the next two quarters. A boost of £9 billion, which the government hopes to achieve through its capital spending manoeuvres, will hardly reverse that without a change in sentiment. The stock market is even more negative, the Nikkei index dropping nearer to 19,000 yesterday. The key to reversing that might be a further cut in the Bank of Japan's discount rate. From 6 per cent in mid-1991, the rate was cut three times with a final move to 4.5 per cent timed ahead of the new year holiday to make businessmen make their 1992 plans in more cheerful mood.

This time, however, Yasushi Mieno, the bank governor, seems reluctant to play the recovery game. He was still resisting widespread calls for a further rate cut of 0.75 per cent yesterday, perhaps because of the diplomatic fallout of any ensuing drop in the yen/dollar exchange rate.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Academic Hamilton

CITY Index, bookmaker to the City, may regret the day it wooed 18-year-old Angus Hamilton from his studies at Southampton University to man their telephones. Today Hamilton, still sporting and betting mad and now all of 25 years old, starts up in direct competition to C1 — prices will be on Reuters screens this morning — with Sporting Index, which will specialise in sporting, rather than financial, events. Hamilton left C1 in 1987 to begin his first betting venture in Edinburgh. His bookie fell victim to the recession and Hamilton now has a new team behind him, with Compton Hellyer — a steward at Kempton and Warwick and also head of the syndicate that owns Docklands Express, third favourite in Saturday's Grand National — as his chairman. To avoid any conflict of interest, Sporting Index will not offer a price on Docklands Express but instead it will make a market in Party Politics, of 21-23. "It's spread betting as opposed to fixed-odd betting," explains Hellyer. "There are 30 fences and so if you think Party Politics will jump more than 23 fences, you would buy at 23, or if you think it will jump fewer, you should sell — just like the stock market. A £10 buy stake could win £70. Hamilton hopes to extend Sporting Index beyond the City but admits that it may be difficult to explain the concept of spread betting to the general public. "Prices can go up and down," he says. "But it's much more exciting. You can win and lose much more."



"It's perfectly all right all right — the chairman is with Bupa."

Coup de ballet

THE English National Ballet has achieved something unheard of in arts sponsorship — it has exceeded its sponsorship target for 1991-2 by £250,000, pushing its total for the year to £590,000. This news will strike an envious chord within the Royal Shakespeare Company, still seeking a replacement sponsor for its tour of *Richard III* after British Telecom pulled out. According to Richard Shaw, director of public affairs at ENB, its success is owed in part to the continuing support from key business sponsors such as Digital Equipment, Cable and Wireless, National Westminster Bank and Ladbroke, with a big contribution coming from the company's new production fund launched by the Princess of Wales in November. Supported by individuals and businesses, the fund has raised £142,000 and this has been matched funded by the Foundation for Sports and Arts (backed by the big pools

companies) and is well on course to raise £150,000 by June. The fund-raising has been so successful that ENB now has hopes of a commercial sponsor to back a new challenge grant in the coming financial year. If BT raises its head as a potential backer, the RSC will not be amused.

Trotting to Fox

MICHAEL Jenkins, aged 59, life chief executive since it started in 1981, is to succeed Andrew Large as chairman of Fox, the London Futures and Options Exchange. The move follows the announcement that Large, former chairman of The Securities Association, will succeed David Walker at the STB in June. Large has for the last six months been sorting out the problems at Fox — previously he was an independent banker — after the resignations of Saxon Tate and Mark Blundell. The last few months, Large says, have been "very traumatic and difficult" for Fox but the problems are "now behind us", he hopes. Jenkins, who will theoretically be non-executive, walks into a clean operation where the main job is reviewing future direction, which is likely to involve refocusing on traditional soft commodities.

Last orders

A SIGN of the times: The Arbitrageur in Throgmorton Street closes today for lack of business. The departure of the options market from the Stock Exchange tower was the final blow but the once-private members-only wine bar and club was also a casualty of the dwindling numbers of arbitrageurs.

CAROL LEONARD

Time to decide what's in a Name

From the former Chairman of the Association of External Members of Lloyd's

Sir, Your excellent "Comment" on Lloyd's future (March 30) almost despairingly declares: "If Lloyd's could only decide whether Names are investors or proprietors much else would fall into place." This made more painfully true because at the moment, despite 20 years of commissions, parliamentary debates, council by-laws directives and regulations, and numerous committee deliberations, members of Lloyd's are neither fish nor fowl, having no say or participation in their syndicates — an essential ingredient of both investor and proprietor.

Even external members of Lloyd's council retain the ignorant illusion that syndicates belong to the managing agents.

David Rowland's Machiavellian mishmash of mistaken measures fails to answer the question your "Comment" so neatly poses: but raises a cloud of new proposals and alternatives which has

had the effect of blinding the real issues that should be faced. Lloyd's is in danger of drowning in its own mess of self-analysis, reappraisals and recommitments.

The way out, is not by further wranglings and investigations, but by concentrating on promoting good underwriting and eliminating abuses such as the LMX spiral which the current crisis has disclosed. A decision as to whether Names are to be proprietor or investor involves increasing the participation and rights of Names in their syndicates and imposing a greater obligation on managing agents and underwriters to share in the misfortunes of their Names. The Rowland report imposes the whole burden of most of its recommendations on Names. This burden must be shared more than equally by agents and underwriters if the proposals are to have any chance of restoring the confidence of the members of Lloyd's.

Yours faithfully,
ANTHONY MITCHELL,
15 Bryanston Square, W1.

Real life returns

From Mr M A Jones

Sir, Despite the comments of Mr Norden (letters, March 27), with-profit endowment policies continue to be a safe, secure means of long-term investment which for many people provides their principal form of saving.

Current reductions by some companies in bonus rates reflect the relatively poor performance of stock market and property investments; they are calculated to make minimal impact on policyholders. The main point to consider is the purchasing power of maturing investments. Current and forecast inflation

levels are well below those experienced in the 1980s so although maturity values are a little lower now in monetary terms, they are not necessarily so in real terms.

Life insurance policies maturing now are likely to have been taken out ten years ago or more when bonus rates, both reversionary and terminal, were significantly lower than they are today. Current maturity values are well in line with policyholders' reasonable expectations.

Yours faithfully,
M. A. JONES,
Chief Executive,
Association of
British Insurers,
51 Gresham Street, EC2.

Accentuating the negative in regional variations

From Mr C L Barnes

Sir, I refer to the profile of John Grieves, senior partner of Freshfields, by Carol Leonard, on March 28.

My father was a chartered accountant in Stratford-on-

Avon, where we lived in a small house. I was at school in Cheltenham. I trained as a chartered accountant in Leamington Spa and am in practice in Coventry.

Like John Grieves, I have no trace of a regional accent. I do not, however, like being patronised.

Yours faithfully,
C L BARNES,
22 Queens Road,
Coventry.

British Gas plc "Gas Transportation: A Public Consultation Document"

British Gas is reviewing procedures for the utilisation and charging of its UK pipeline transportation system.

A consultation document setting out our current thinking on the subject is now available.

We welcome the views of interested parties and have set aside the next eight weeks for consultation.

For further information and to obtain a copy of

"Gas Transportation: A Public Consultation Document" dial FREEPHONE 0800 220 358, or write to John Huggins, British Gas plc, Gas Transportation Services Dept., 22nd floor, Millbank Tower, London SW1P 4QP.

British Gas

Portfolio

PLATINUM
From your Portfolio Platinum card check your share price movements on this page only. Add them up to give you your overall total and check this against the daily dividend figure. If it matches you have won a share of the daily prize money. If you win, follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. Always keep your card available when claiming. Claim rules appear on the back of your card.

No	Company	Group	Price	High	Low	Company	Group	Price	High	Low
1	Worcester	Industrial	104	104	104	104	Industrial	104	104	104
2	THORN EMI	Electrical	135	135	135	135	Electrical	135	135	135
3	Pink	Electrical	135	135	135	135	Electrical	135	135	135
4	Jacobus	Transport	135	135	135	135	Transport	135	135	135
5	Rocheman	Tobacco	135	135	135	135	Tobacco	135	135	135
6	Getman	Industrial	135	135	135	135	Industrial	135	135	135
7	Mico Focus	Electrical	135	135	135	135	Electrical	135	135	135
8	Costs Virela	Drugs/Pharm	135	135	135	135	Drugs/Pharm	135	135	135
9	IMI	Industrial	135	135	135	135	Industrial	135	135	135
10	Alfa	Electrical	135	135	135	135	Electrical	135	135	135
11	Johnnie Press	Newspaper/Pub	135	135	135	135	Newspaper/Pub	135	135	135
12	Wish Water	Water	135	135	135	135	Water	135	135	135
13	BOC	Industrial	135	135	135	135	Industrial	135	135	135
14	Read Int	Newspaper/Pub	135	135	135	135	Newspaper/Pub	135	135	135
15	OKN	Industrial	135	135	135	135	Industrial	135	135	135
16	Rank Org	Industrial	135	135	135	135	Industrial	135	135	135
17	Steeley	Building/Rtd	135	135	135	135	Building/Rtd	135	135	135
18	Thames Perkin	Building/Rtd	135	135	135	135	Building/Rtd	135	135	135
19	Goat Pst	Oil/Gas	135	135	135	135	Oil/Gas	135	135	135
20	Baird (Wm)	Industrial	135	135	135	135	Industrial	135	135	135
21	Scandinavia	Chemicals	135	135	135	135	Chemicals	135	135	135
22	Barclay	Chemicals	135	135	135	135	Chemicals	135	135	135
23	New Corp	Newspaper/Pub	135	135	135	135	Newspaper/Pub	135	135	135
24	Electronics	Electrical	135	135	135	135	Electrical	135	135	135
25	Marla Spence	Drugs/Pharm	135	135	135	135	Drugs/Pharm	135	135	135
26	New Int	Newspaper/Pub	135	135	135	135	Newspaper/Pub	135	135	135
27	Sidex	Industrial	135	135	135	135	Industrial	135	135	135
28	Prognosis	Property	135	135	135	135	Property	135	135	135
29	Prognosis	Property	135	135	135	135	Property	135	135	135
30	Prognosis	Property	135	135	135	135	Property	135	135	135
31	Prognosis	Property	135	135	135	135	Property	135	135	135
32	Prognosis	Property	135	135	135	135	Property	135	135	135
33	Prognosis	Property	135	135	135	135	Property	135	135	135
34	Prognosis	Property	135	135	135	135	Property	135	135	135
35	Prognosis	Property	135	135	135	135	Property	135	135	135
36	Prognosis	Property	135	135	135	135	Property	135	135	135
37	Prognosis	Property	135	135	135	135	Property	135	135	135
38	Prognosis	Property	135	135	135	135	Property	135	135	135
39	Prognosis	Property	135	135	135	135	Property	135	135	135
40	Prognosis	Property	135	135	135	135	Property	135	135	135

© Times Newspapers Ltd. Total
Please take into account any relevant signs
Weekly Dividend
Please make a note of your daily total for the weekly dividend of 94.00 in Saturday's newspaper.

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	WEEKLY

Six readers shared the Portfolio Platinum prize yesterday. Miss B. Pye-Howard, of Torpoint, Cornwall; Mr J. Morris, of Newton Abbot, Devon; Miss B. Cowdery, of Basingstoke, Hants; Mr G. Brook, of Harrogate, N. Yorks; and Mr L. C. Perkins, of Bracknell, Berks, each received £33.33.

1991/92 High Low Company Price + - % P/E

BANKS, DISCOUNT, HP

No	Company	Price	High	Low	Company	Price	High	Low
1	Bank of Scotland	104	104	104	104	Bank of Scotland	104	104
2	Bank of Scotland	104	104	104	104	Bank of Scotland	104	104
3	Bank of Scotland	104	104	104	104	Bank of Scotland	104	104
4	Bank of Scotland	104	104	104	104	Bank of Scotland	104	104
5	Bank of Scotland	104	104	104	104	Bank of Scotland	104	104
6	Bank of Scotland	104	104	104	104	Bank of Scotland	104	104
7	Bank of Scotland	104	104	104	104	Bank of Scotland	104	104
8	Bank of Scotland	104	104	104	104	Bank of Scotland	104	104
9	Bank of Scotland	104	104	104	104	Bank of Scotland	104	104
10	Bank of Scotland	104	104	104	104	Bank of Scotland	104	104

BREWERIES

No	Company	Price	High	Low	Company	Price	High	Low
1	Adnams	104	104	104	104	Adnams	104	104
2	Adnams	104	104	104	104	Adnams	104	104
3	Adnams	104	104	104	104	Adnams	104	104
4	Adnams	104	104	104	104	Adnams	104	104
5	Adnams	104	104	104	104	Adnams	104	104
6	Adnams	104	104	104	104	Adnams	104	104
7	Adnams	104	104	104	104	Adnams	104	104
8	Adnams	104	104	104	104	Adnams	104	104
9	Adnams	104	104	104	104	Adnams	104	104
10	Adnams	104	104	104	104	Adnams	104	104

BUILDING, ROADS

No	Company	Price	High	Low	Company	Price	High	Low
1	Adnams	104	104	104	104	Adnams	104	104
2	Adnams	104	104	104	104	Adnams	104	104
3	Adnams	104	104	104	104	Adnams	104	104
4	Adnams	104	104	104	104	Adnams	104	104
5	Adnams	104	104	104	104	Adnams	104	104
6	Adnams	104	104	104	104	Adnams	104	104
7	Adnams	104	104	104	104	Adnams	104	104
8	Adnams	104	104	104	104	Adnams	104	104
9	Adnams	104	104	104	104	Adnams	104	104
10	Adnams	104	104	104	104	Adnams	104	104

Shares end at lowest levels

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began March 23. Dealings end on Friday, 5 Contango day April 6. Settlement day April 13. Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days. Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

1991/92 High Low Company Price + - % P/E

No	Company	Price	High	Low	Company	Price	High	Low
1	Adnams	104	104	104	104	Adnams	104	104
2	Adnams	104	104	104	104	Adnams	104	104
3	Adnams	104	104	104	104	Adnams	104	104
4	Adnams	104	104	104	104	Adnams	104	104
5	Adnams	104	104	104	104	Adnams	104	104
6	Adnams	104	104	104	104	Adnams	104	104
7	Adnams	104	104	104	104	Adnams	104	104
8	Adnams	104	104	104	104	Adnams	104	104
9	Adnams	104	104	104	104	Adnams	104	104
10	Adnams	104	104	104	104	Adnams	104	104

CHEMICALS, PLASTICS

No	Company	Price	High	Low	Company	Price	High	Low
1	Adnams	104	104	104	104	Adnams	104	104
2	Adnams	104	104	104	104	Adnams	104	104
3	Adnams	104	104	104	104	Adnams	104	104
4	Adnams	104	104	104	104	Adnams	104	104
5	Adnams	104	104	104	104	Adnams	104	104
6	Adnams	104	104	104	104	Adnams	104	104
7	Adnams	104	104	104	104	Adnams	104	104
8	Adnams	104	104	104	104	Adnams	104	104
9	Adnams	104	104	104	104	Adnams	104	104
10	Adnams	104	104	104	104	Adnams	104	104

ELECTRICITY

No	Company	Price	High	Low	Company	Price	High	Low
1	Adnams	104	104	104	104	Adnams	104	104
2	Adnams	104	104	104	104	Adnams	104	104
3	Adnams	104	104	104	104	Adnams	104	104
4	Adnams	104	104	104	104	Adnams	104	104
5	Adnams	104	104	104	104	Adnams	104	104
6	Adnams	104	104	104	104	Adnams	104	104
7	Adnams	104	104	104	104	Adnams	104	104
8	Adnams	104	104	104	104	Adnams	104	104
9	Adnams	104	104	104	104	Adnams	104	104
10	Adnams	104	104	104	104	Adnams	104	104

FINANCE, LAND

No	Company	Price	High	Low	Company	Price	High	Low
1	Adnams	104	104	104	104	Adnams	104	104
2	Adnams	104	104	104	104	Adnams	104	104
3	Adnams	104	104	104	104	Adnams	104	104
4	Adnams	104	104	104	104	Adnams	104	104
5	Adnams	104	104	104	104	Adnams	104	104
6	Adnams	104	104	104	104	Adnams	104	104
7	Adnams	104	104	104	104	Adnams	104	104
8	Adnams	104	104	104	104	Adnams	104	104
9	Adnams	104	104	104	104	Adnams	104	104
10	Adnams	104	104	104	104	Adnams	104	104

FINANCIAL TRUSTS

No	Company	Price	High	Low	Company	Price	High	Low
1	Adnams	104	104	104	104	Adnams	104	104
2	Adnams	104	104	104	104	Adnams	104	104
3	Adnams	104	104	104	104	Adnams	104	104
4	Adnams	104	104	104	104	Adnams	104	104
5	Adnams	104	104	104	104	Adnams	104	104
6	Adnams	104	104	104	104	Adnams	104	104
7	Adnams	104	104	104	104	Adnams	104	104
8	Adnams	104	104	104	104	Adnams	104	104
9	Adnams	104	104	104	104	Adnams	104	104
10	Adnams	104	104	104	104	Adnams	104	104

FOODS

HOTELS, CATERERS									
36	20	Albion St.H	21			141	181	141	181
37	21	Albion St.H	21			142	182	142	182
38	22	Albion St.H	21			143	183	143	183
39	23	Albion St.H	21			144	184	144	184
40	24	Albion St.H	21			145	185	145	185
41	25	Albion St.H	21			146	186	146	186
42	26	Albion St.H	21			147	187	147	187
43	27	Albion St.H	21			148	188	148	188
44	28	Albion St.H	21			149	189	149	189
45	29	Albion St.H	21			150	190	150	190
46	30	Albion St.H	21			151	191	151	191
47	31	Albion St.H	21			152	192	152	192
48	32	Albion St.H	21			153	193	153	193
49	33	Albion St.H	21			154	194	154	194
50	34	Albion St.H	21			155	195	155	195
51	35	Albion St.H	21			156	196	156	196
52	36	Albion St.H	21			157	197	157	197
53	37	Albion St.H	21			158	198	158	198
54	38	Albion St.H	21			159	199	159	199
55	39	Albion St.H	21			160	200	160	200
56	40	Albion St.H	21			161	201	161	201
57	41	Albion St.H	21			162	202	162	202
58	42	Albion St.H	21			163	203	163	203
59	43	Albion St.H	21			164	204	164	204
60	44	Albion St.H	21			165	205	165	205
61	45	Albion St.H	21			166	206	166	206
62	46	Albion St.H	21			167	207	167	207
63	47	Albion St.H	21			168	208	168	208
64	48	Albion St.H	21			169	209	169	209
65	49	Albion St.H	21			170	210	170	210
66	50	Albion St.H	21			171	211	171	211
67	51	Albion St.H	21			172	212	172	212
68	52	Albion St.H	21			173	213	173	213
69	53	Albion St.H	21			174	214	174	214
70	54	Albion St.H	21			175	215	175	215
71	55	Albion St.H	21			176	216	176	216
72	56	Albion St.H	21			177	217	177	217
73	57	Albion St.H	21			178	218	178	218
74	58	Albion St.H	21			179	219	179	219
75	59	Albion St.H	21			180	220	180	220
76	60	Albion St.H	21			181	221	181	221
77	61	Albion St.H	21			182	222	182	222
78	62	Albion St.H	21			183	223	183	223
79	63	Albion St.H	21			184	224	184	224
80	64	Albion St.H	21			185	225	185	225
81	65	Albion St.H	21			186	226	186	226
82	66	Albion St.H	21			187	227	187	227
83	67	Albion St.H	21			188	228	188	228
84	68	Albion St.H	21			189	229	189	229
85	69	Albion St.H	21			190	230	190	230
86	70	Albion St.H	21			191	231	191	231
87	71	Albion St.H	21			192	232	192	232
88	72	Albion St.H	21			193	233	193	233
89	73	Albion St.H	21			194	234	194	234
90	74	Albion St.H	21			195	235	195	235
91	75	Albion St.H	21			196	236	196	236
92	76	Albion St.H	21			197	237	197	237
93	77	Albion St.H	21			198	238	198	238
94	78	Albion St.H	21			199	239	199	239
95	79	Albion St.H	21			200	240	200	240
96	80	Albion St.H	21			201	241	201	241
97	81	Albion St.H	21			202	242	202	242
98	82	Albion St.H	21			203	243	203	243
99	83	Albion St.H	21			204	244	204	244
100	84	Albion St.H	21			205	245	205	245
101	85	Albion St.H	21			206	246	206	246
102	86	Albion St.H	21			207	247	207	247
103	87	Albion St.H	21			208	248	208	248
104	88	Albion St.H	21			209	249	209	249
105	89	Albion St.H	21			210	250	210	250
106	90	Albion St.H	21			211	251	211	251
107	91	Albion St.H	21			212	252	212	252
108	92	Albion St.H	21			213	253	213	253
109	93	Albion St.H	21			214	254	214	254
110	94	Albion St.H	21			215	255	215	255
111	95	Albion St.H	21			216	256	216	256
112	96	Albion St.H	21			217	257	217	257
113	97	Albion St.H	21			218	258	218	258
114	98	Albion St.H	21			219	259	219	259
115	99	Albion St.H	21			220	260	220	260
116	100	Albion St.H	21			221	261	221	261
117	101	Albion St.H	21			222	262	222	262
118	102	Albion St.H	21			223	263	223	263
119	103	Albion St.H	21			224	264	224	264
120	104	Albion St.H	21			225	265	225	265
121	105	Albion St.H	21			226	266	226	266
122	106	Albion St.H	21			227	267	227	267
123	107	Albion St.H	21			228	268	228	268
124	108	Albion St.H	21			229	269	229	269
125	109	Albion St.H	21			230	270	230	270
126	110	Albion St.H	21			231	271	231	271
127	111	Albion St.H	21			232	272	232	272
128	112	Albion St.H	21			233	273	233	273
129	113	Albion St.H	21			234	274	234	274
130	114	Albion St.H	21			235	275	235	275
131	115	Albion St.H	21			236	276	236	276
132	116	Albion St.H	21			237	277	237	277
133	117	Albion St.H	21			238	278	238	278
134	118	Albion St.H	21			239	279	239	279
135	119	Albion St.H	21			240	280	240	280
136	120	Albion St.H	21			241	281	241	281
137	121	Albion St.H	21			242	282	242	282
138	122	Albion St.H	21			243	283	243	283
139	123	Albion St.H	21			244	284	244	284
140	124	Albion St.H	21			245	285	245	285
141	125	Albion St.H	21			246	286	246	286
142	126	Albion St.H	21			247	287	247	287
143	127	Albion St.H	21			248	288	248	288
144	128	Albion St.H	21			249	289	249	289
145	129	Albion St.H	21			250	290	250	290
146	130	Albion St.H	21			251	291	251	291
147	131	Albion St.H	21			252	292	252	292
148	132	Albion St.H	21			253	293	253	293
149	133	Albion St.H	21			254	294	254	294
150	134	Albion St.H	21			255	295	255	295
151	135	Albion St.H	21			256	296	256	296
152	136	Albion St.H	21			257	297	257	297
153	137	Albion St.H	21			258	298	258	298
154	138	Albion St.H	21			259	299	259	299
155	139	Albion St.H	21			260	300	260	300
156	140	Albion St.H	21			261	301	261	301
157	141	Albion St.H	21			262	302	262	302
158	142	Albion St.H	21			263	303	263	303
159	143	Albion St.H	21			264	304	264	304
160	144	Albion St.H	21			265	305	265	305
161	145	Albion St.H	21			266	306	266	306
162	146	Albion St.H	21			267	307	267	307
163	147	Albion St.H	21			268	308	268	308
164	148	Albion St.H	21			269	309	269	309
165	149	Albion St.H	21			270	310	270	310
166	150	Albion St.H	21			271	311	271	311
167	151	Albion St.H	21			272	312	272	312
168	152	Albion St.H	21			273	313	273	313
169	153	Albion St.H	21			274	314	274	314
170	154	Albion St.H	21			275	315	275	315
171	155	Albion St.H	21			276	316	276	316
172	156	Albion St.H	21			277	317	277	317
173	157	Albion St.H	21			278	318	278	318
174	158	Albion St.H	21			279	319	279	319
175	159	Albion St.H	21			280	320	280	320
176	160	Albion St.H	21			281	321	281	321
177	161	Albion St.H	21			282	322	282	322
178	162	Albion St.H	21			283	323	283	323
179	163	Albion St.H	21			284	324	284	324
180	164	Albion St.H	21			285	325	285	325
181	165	Albion St.H	21			286	326	286	326
182	166	Albion St.H	21			287	327	287	327
183	167	Albion St.H	21			288	328	288	328
184	168	Albion St.H	21			289	329	289	329
185	169	Albion St.H	21			290	330	290	330
186	170	Albion St.H	21			291	331	291	331
187	171	Albion St.H	21			292	332	292	332
188	172	Albion St.H	21			293	333	293	333
189	173	Albion St.H	21			294	334	294	334
190	174	Albion St.H	21			295	335	295	335
191	175	Albion St.H	21			296	336	296	336
192	176	Albion St.H	21			297	337	297	337
193	177	Albion St.H	21			298	338	298	338
194	178	Albion St.H	21			299	339	299	339
195	179	Albion St.H	21			300	340	300	340
196	180	Albion St.H	21			301	341	301	341
197	181	Albion St.H	21			302	342	302	342
198	182	Albion St.H	21</						

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

FTSE 100
 Previous open interest: 41500
 Three Month Sterling
 Previous open interest: 18621
Three Mth Eurodollar
 Previous open interest: 22508
Three Mth Euro DM
 Previous open interest: 22508
US Treasury Bond
 Previous open interest: 3823
Japanese Govt Bond
 Previous open interest: 54672
German Govt Bond
 Previous open interest: 12182
Swiss Franc
 Previous open interest: 37662
Italian Govt Bond
 Previous open interest: 37989

FTSE 100
 Previous open interest: 41500
 Three Month Sterling
 Previous open interest: 18621
Three Mth Eurodollar
 Previous open interest: 22508
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 Previous open interest: 22508
US Treasury Bond
 Previous open interest: 3823
Japanese Govt Bond
 Previous open interest: 54672
German Govt Bond
 Previous open interest: 12182
Swiss Franc
 Previous open interest: 37662
Italian Govt Bond
 Previous open interest: 37989

FTSE 100
 Previous open interest: 41500
 Three Month Sterling
 Previous open interest: 18621
Three Mth Eurodollar
 Previous open interest: 22508
Three Mth Euro DM
 Previous open interest: 22508
US Treasury Bond
 Previous open interest: 3823
Japanese Govt Bond
 Previous open interest: 54672
German Govt Bond
 Previous open interest: 12182
Swiss Franc
 Previous open interest: 37662
Italian Govt Bond
 Previous open interest: 37989

[illegible]

Accusations fly after Davis Cup defeat

Noah decides to stand down as captain of France

Paris: With recriminations ringing almost as loudly as the cheers of last year's epic Davis Cup tennis victory in Lyons, Yannick Noah, the French captain and acknowledged inspiration behind his team's success, has decided to stand down.

Noah's decision comes just two days after the Davis Cup title-holders were eliminated in the quarter-final by Switzerland, when the hardest hitting of the tie happened off the court, with the captain criticising the preparation and attitude of his leading two players.

Noah told the national sports daily, *L'Equipe*, in an interview published yesterday, he had told the players he would resign to concentrate on a music career before the tie in Nîmes, which France lost 3-2.

"I told them three weeks

ago," he said. "It's out of the question that the Davis Cup becomes my thing ... It's enough. In five or six years time, we will see ... But now I want to do something else."

Noah, controversially, dropped Guy Forget and Henri Leconte, so triumphant in Lyons, from his singles line-up to face Switzerland, saying both were off form and not fully fit. Noah, however, expressed disappointment with the two players in a long and sometimes bitter interview in which he accused Forget and Leconte of resting on the laurels of victory instead of concentrating on the job in hand.

"Basically it was a case of two guys who said: 'We've won the cup, that's great'," Noah said. "Henri said: 'The Davis Cup is my life'. No, his life is to play and win matches. It's not because he's won

once that everything is accomplished."

"Look at Guy's results since the beginning of the year. Fine, he beat [Ivan] Lendl but, in comparison with his ability, he has not come up to his real level. Henri has won one match."

"I feared this would happen. We even spoke about it on the night we won the cup. The guys agreed with me. They won't be surprised to read this." Noah said Forget and Leconte were at such a low level in training that he and the team reserve, Olivier Delatre, had beaten them in doubles practice.

Until the defeat to Switzerland, Noah had an unbeaten record as non-playing captain, taking over the French team at the start of last year and taking them to their first Davis Cup title in 59 years.

Forget and Leconte, close friends and former Davis Cup playing partners of Noah's, both expressed disappointment at his decision. "I told him I would like him to stay on," Forget said. "Yannick is irreplaceable. We will talk about it again, I hope I can make him change his mind."

Leconte added: "It's a pity because we get on extremely well and it's a shame to finish on a losing note. But Yannick has created a team spirit which can carry on without him."

Forget and Leconte played in the doubles in Nîmes, coming back from two sets down to win and keep France in the tie for 24 more hours.

Noah said he had already had enough of the Davis Cup. "It was taking me nowhere," he said. "Look I've been the black captain of the French team and we sang 'Sage Africa' [the title of Noah's hit single]. There's nothing else to do ... now I want to concentrate on music."

Leconte said later in a radio interview that Noah's comments on him and Forget were "stupid and idiotic". He added: "It leaves an unpleasant taste in the mouth. It's a pity. I'm disappointed. Everyone has to take his share of the blame ... When the captain announces he will be leaving by next season, psychologically you don't approach the tie in the same way. It wasn't good to tell us first." (Reuters)

Courier likely to receive cup call

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

Fort Myers, Texas: Jim Courier, who lost his No. 1 world ranking to Stefan Edberg last week, may be recalled for the Davis Cup semi-final against Edberg's Sweden. "My opinion is that the best American player should be playing," John McEnroe said. McEnroe still has the confidence of the US captain, Tom Gorman, despite his doubles defeat to Czechoslovakia in the quarter-finals last weekend.

Andre Agassi, whose two wins in the quarter-final defeat of Czechoslovakia took his Davis Cup record to 16 wins out of 20, and McEnroe are virtually certain to be picked.

"I wish I had more spots. I wish Davis Cup would go to four out of seven. We'd be totally dominant," Gorman said. He has to choose among Courier, Pete Sampras, who won only one of his singles against the Czechoslovaks, and Michael Chang, who has won his last three tournaments. Both Courier and Chang are difficult to beat on clay, which is the surface the Americans will probably pick for the semi-final at Minne-

apolis from September 25 to 27. McEnroe may continue his doubles partnership with Rick Leach or switch to Courier.

Stefano Pescosolidi, of Italy, went to hospital with cramp after pulling out of his John McEnroe match against Jaime Oncins in Macao on Monday, handing Brazil a surprise World Group quarter-final win. Pescosolidi retired in the first game of the fourth set when he was trailing 6-4, 6-3, 3-6. His withdrawal handed Brazil an unbeatable 3-1 advantage.



Courier: lost status

MOTOR RALLYING

Kankkunen roll aids Sainz

Nairobi: Carlos Sainz, of Spain, was just a day away from his first victory in the fourth Safari Rally after yesterday's 1,023km fifth stage. Sainz, in a Toyota Celica, led the Lancia Integrale of Jorge Recalde, of Argentina, by 1.1 seconds. Sainz's lead was extended to 1.1 seconds by 28 minutes and 54 minutes respectively.

The Spaniard had led the world's toughest rally from the start, with one or two worries over the turbo and a few small punctures his only moments of uncertainty.

Kankkunen the world champion, was lucky to be still in the race, however. A moment's indecision early in the morning saw him hit a bank at a tight bend and roll, ending back on its wheels. The Finn was unhurt.

"It was like slow-motion in the movies. I have a broken windscreen and the roof is pushed down - only bodywork damage but we are doing fine," Kankkunen, the winner last year, said. Juhani Piironen, his co-driver, said: "It was lucky I was wearing a helmet because the roof came down on the co-driver's side and there was a big bang."

Mechanics reshaped the roof of Kankkunen's car to fit a new windscreen.

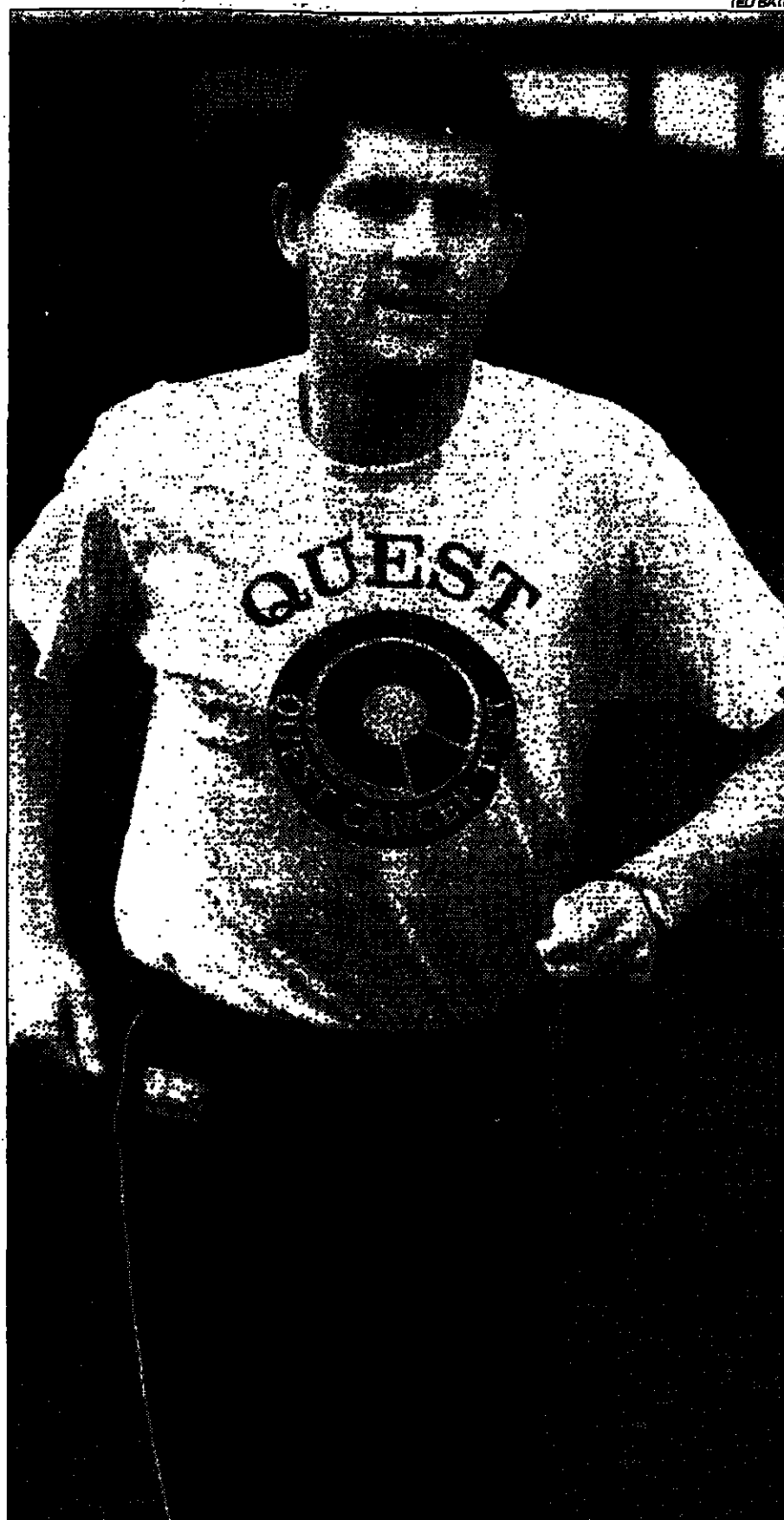
Sainz, who was deposed as world champion by Kankkunen last year, reported turbo problems during the stage but decided against immediate repairs.

He had an accumulated penalty of one hour and 47 minutes at Baringo,

3,445km through the six-day rally. The fifth leg took the cars through steep hills along the volcanic western Rift Valley and into the plains of northwestern Kenya. The drivers followed the narrow and dusty roads to Nyeri, at the foot of snow-capped Mount Kenya.

Paris: Fisa, the international motor sports federation, has postponed a decision on whether the 1992 world sportscar championship will go ahead. Indications are that it will, however.

Rome: Andrea Mode, the Italian Formula One team, has signed Perry McCarthy, of Britain, and Roberto Moreno, of Brazil. The drivers will contest the Brazilian grand prix at Interlagos on Sunday. (Agencies)



Galloping major: Army officer Nicholas Binns will run for a cancer charity

Merely a practice run

BY ALIX RAMSAY

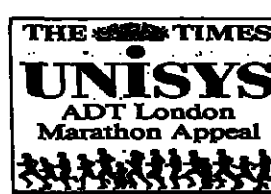
FOR most people the thought of their first marathon is daunting enough. But for Major Nicholas Binns the ADT London Marathon is just the beginning. April 12 will be a dress rehearsal for his first triathlon, a mere three weeks after he crosses the finishing line at Westminster Bridge.

Binns has always kept himself very fit but last autumn he went a stage further by joining the Greenwich Tritons, a group of 25 energetic souls whose idea of enjoyment is to combine swimming, cycling and running in one strength-sapping event.

Binns's first taste of the triathlon will see him complete a one-mile swim, a 55-mile cycle and a 13-mile run. "I thought it sounded quite fun," he said. "I'm the sort of person who needs something to aim for."

The goal Binns is aiming at during his marathon training is to raise money for the Quest Cancer Test, a charity promoting early screening for all types of cancer. "They are trying to design new tests for cancers," he said. "The earlier you can pick them up the better chance you have of treating them successfully."

As a general practitioner at the Queen Elizabeth Military Hospital in Woolwich, Binns



is a firm believer in prevention being better than cure. "A lot of general practice is about primary prevention and I think these new tests will become more popular as people are becoming more tuned in to their own health."

Unfortunately for Binns, his plans to use his hospital contacts to raise money came unstuck when he discovered that three other people were running the Marathon for three rival charities. But regardless of this, he is circulating sponsorship forms to raise in the funds. Meanwhile, the training is going well. In all, six of the Tritons will run the Marathon and they provide each other with moral support by training together.

"We did 20 miles for the first time last weekend, which went well, and I think I shall finish in around three hours 15 minutes," he said. They train on the Marathon course itself. "A couple of the people I train with have done the Marathon before so I know what to expect," Binns said. "When I started I was dreading the race but now

I'm beginning to look forward to it."

Binns has not yet discounted the idea of pulling rank over his three hospital rivals in the race to get to the sponsors first. "It may just come to that," he said.

The Times and Unisys — the official ADT London Marathon computer service — hope that by featuring the efforts of our team of fund-runners we will help them find sponsorship. If you wish to support one or more of them, write clearly stating your beneficiaries to The Times/Unisys London Marathon Appeal, Sports Department, The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. Please make cheques payable to the appropriate fund-runner and we will send on your donations.

Unisys is offering a Unisys personal computer to the biggest fund-raiser and a job and a magnum of champagne respectively to the second and third.

In addition, each member of our team will receive a Tissot T-Sport watch, the official ADT London Marathon watch. Sales of this watch will benefit the International Stoke Mandeville Sporting Wheelchair Federation. "Tissot is also sponsoring the London Marathon entry of Henri Frei, the Swiss paraplegic marathon record-holder."

Liverpool deny bias in hunt for local talent

BY PETER BARNARD

SPORT ON TELEVISION

THE WEEK IN REVIEW

I mentioned a few weeks ago that television was sorely lacking programmes that covered aspects of sport other than the action. So three (well, two) cheers for the return of *Standing Room Only*, a worthy attempt by BBC 2 to plug precisely that gap.

The show, which goes out on Monday evenings, has the flavour of a television version of one of the better fanzines, *When Saturday Comes*, perhaps. And it has a rough-cut, comic-strip feel which is clearly designed to attract the young. Rightly so. Football, like the church, is dead if it simply grows old with the people within it.

Stan Hey, who will not be unfamiliar to readers of these pages, writes the show and it is presented by Simon O'Brien, a pure Scouser who on Monday brought us an item which, sadly, did not live up to its potential.

Are the big Liverpool clubs ignoring talent on their doorstep, and if they are, is that because the talent is black? This is a pretty dangerous proposition if you cannot stand it up. The argument was that Liverpool's better known to the nation as Toxteth, has talented players whom the big Liverpool clubs, and especially Liverpool themselves, are not bothering to nurture.

The local side has won the premier division of the Liverpool and District League three times in six years, but Liverpool's scouting network in the region appears to focus on the South Merseyside League. Steve Highway, a former Anfield player now in charge of youth development, emphatically denied any bias in the recruitment policy, either against Toxteth or against blacks.

A coach in Toxteth claimed that players who were given a trial at Anfield had been told that if they were successful they should move out of Toxteth, a charge Highway should have been allowed to respond to.

This was a weighty and sensitive subject which *Standing Room Only* was

right to tackle, but it would have done better to expand the horizon slightly. The perception that big clubs take the easy way out by buying talent is at best an over-simplification, because the wastage inherent in any youth policy makes it almost as expensive as dabbling in the transfer market.

But the programme is not all big issues, thanks be. On Monday we got an interview with George Best, which was mostly unrevealing but at least provided an excuse to look at clips from his heyday. Best did make the point that from his first appearance for Manchester United, aged 17, nobody had ever told him how to play, a reference to over-coaching in the modern game.

There was also a bit of satirical fun at the expense of Crystal Palace's Geoff Thomas, focused on his spectacular missed goal for England against France. Looked like a pretty straightforward misadventure to me, but it was a decent excuse to suggest that Thomas's career was bound up in conspiracy theory, a sort of Kennedy assassination relocated to England's muddy fields. The theory was apparently launched when certain mysterious figures started putting about the proposition that Thomas was "quite good".

There was also glamour. In the shape (a word used advisedly) of the ratings-at-all-costs Italian television stations which now have their equivalent of *The Match* and *Match of the Day* introduced by under-dressed women who flicker their eyelashes, if nothing else, at football stars. Naturally, these included Paul Gascoigne, who now seems to have done everything in Italy except play football.

Glamorous women introducing *Match of the Day*? Gracious me are you watching, Jimmy Hill?

GYMNASTICS

Championships adopt individual approach

Paris: The International Gymnastics Federation (FIG) is to try new ways of organising the world championships in an attempt to broaden the appeal of the sport. Next month, gymnasts are bypassing the team stage here and going straight to their choice of apparatus.

In Birmingham next year, they will largely revert to the traditional practice but without the compulsory exercises. In 1994, the event will go back to the Paris format and, in 1995 and 1996, the championships will be held as usual with team qualifying followed by compulsory and optional individual exercises.

Michel Leglise, an FIG official, said the move should open up the sport to nations that can ill-afford coaches and equipment for every apparatus.

Countries with modest resources, such as Nigeria and

the Ivory Coast, can now compete in the world championships without having to put forward someone in each discipline," he said.

However, Leglise warned that there were limits to the FIG's wish to experiment. "We want to remain a sport and not become a spectacle like *Holiday on Ice*," he said.

Arthur Magkalian, one of the organisers of the championships in Paris, highlighted the advantage of allowing gymnasts to specialise.

"By the time they're 20, most gymnasts go to university or out to work," he said. "They don't have time to train physically and mentally for 30 hours a week, so they leave the sport. It's a shame but, this way, they could stay competitive in just one discipline."

The changes are to be rubber-stamped by the FIG congress in July. (AFP)

BRIDGE

British women score encouraging success

BY ALBERT DORMER

IN A fine display of commitment, four British women have stung American pride and pleased the selectors who had just chosen them for Britain's World Olympiad squad. Only days after being named for the 60-nation event in Salsamaggiore in August, Michelle Handley, Sandra Landy, Nicola Smith and Pat Davies flew to Pasadena to contest the North American spring championships. Their performance surpassed all other foreign competitors.

Handley and Landy even played as anchor pair to win the women's Swiss team with four Americans over the final weekend of the ten-day tournament. This carries the theoretical right to challenge for berths on the United States team.

Earlier, the four British women turned in a superb

performance in the Vanderbilt Cup, the sport's most historic trophy, reaching the round of 16 and eliminating the Ross team, captained by a world championship winner.

Handley and Landy rounded out their performance by winning a one-day pairs championship event.

The thrice-yearly North American nationals attracts thousands of strong performers, including professionals who receive large fees to take part. No foreign women have done as well as the British foursome, who were part of a record overseas entry.

Their effort has left American officials facing the need for revised seedings and new regulations to avoid the indignity of Europeans winning places on the United States team. Handley described the trip as "a great workout for the Olympiad".

BASEBALL

Bell adds clout to Chicago's challenge

BY ROBERT KIRLEY

THE major leagues have a tough act to follow when the campaign opens next Monday. Last season the Minnesota Twins and the Atlanta Braves improved from worst to first in one year in their divisions before the Twins beat the Braves four games to three in a magnificent World Series.

Nothing disintegrates faster than a winning combination in baseball: no team has retained the Series title since the New York Yankees of 1977-8. True to form, Minnesota have had to make big adjustments. Jack Morris, the most-valuable player in the Series, departed to pitch for Toronto, his third team in three years.

The Twins replaced him with John Smiley, a 20-game winner, from Pittsburgh, and added Bill Krueger, a free agent, from Seattle. Kent Hrbek, Minnesota's leading left-handed power hitter, dis-

located a shoulder and will be sidelined for two to six weeks.

The Chicago White Sox, led by big Frank Thomas and the newcomers, George Bell and Steve Sax, are ready to better two consecutive second-place finishes in the American League West. Bell was acquired on Monday from the Chicago Cubs to replace Bob Jackson, who is unable to play while awaiting a hip replacement operation.

Texas, who have never won the division, could prosper if their pitching excels. They feature Nolan Ryan, aged 45, the career strikeout leader, but they have a ferocious offense, led by the batting champion, Julio Franco.

Cito Gaston, of Toronto, is

one of only five American League managers who hold the job they held one year ago. Toronto, who have won more games than any other club over the past ten seasons, are favourites in the American League East. As well as Morris, who beat them twice in the play-offs, Toronto signed the venerable designated hitter, Dave Winfield, from California.

Boston, despite adding Frank Viola to a staff led by the incomparable Roger Clemens, still lack pitching depth, but their batting order is excellent. Baltimore hope to thrive in a new stadium, Camden Yards, where President Bush will throw the ceremonial first ball of the year.

NATIONAL LEAGUE East: 1, Chicago Cubs (equal 3); 2, NY Mets (3); 3, Pittsburgh (1); 4, St Louis (2); 5, Philadelphia (equal 3); 6, Montreal (5). West: 1, LA Dodgers (2); 2, Atlanta (1); 3, Cincinnati (3); 4, San Francisco (4); 5, San Diego (3); 6, Houston (6). WORLD SERIES: Dodgers to beat White Sox in six games.

In the National League East, the New York Mets will return to winning ways, having signed first-rate players such as Bobby Bonilla (five years for \$25 million), Eddie Murray, Willie Randolph and Bret Saberhagen.

In the National League West, Atlanta depend on the exceptional pitching rotation of Tom Glavine, Steve Avery, John Smoltz and Charlie Leibrandt. Los Angeles signed Eric Davis to strengthen their superb outfield.

Huge salaries are beginning to pinch. One owner said that as many as half of the clubs could lose money this season. Three years ago, Kirby Puckett, of the Twins, became the first to earn \$3 million in a season. Ryne Sandberg, of the Cubs, a perennial All-Star, recently raised the standard by signing an extension that guarantees \$7.1 million a season for four years. One can only wonder what Babe Ruth would command in such a market.

FOOTBALL

7.30 unless stated

Barclays League

First division

Everton v Southampton

Tottenham v West Ham (7.45)

Second division

Bristol Rovers v Southend (8.0)

Derby v Cambridge Utd

Leicester v Middlesbrough (7.45)

Millwall v Oxford Utd (7.45)

Sunderland v Swindon (7.45)

Third division

Reading v Brentford (7.45)

Fourth division

Lincoln v Carlisle

EUROPEAN CUP: Semi-final series

Group A: Paris Saint-Germain (PSG) v

Amsterdam (AFC) v Borussia Dortmund (BVB)

Group B: Benfica (Ben) v Dynamo Kiev (Dinamo)

Group C: Sporting (Sport) v Barcelona (Bar)

CUP WINNERS' CUP: Semi-final, first leg

Monaco (Mon) v Feyenoord Rotterdam

Netherlands Cup: Brugge (Bru) v Werder Bremen (Wer)

UEFA CUP: Semi-final, first leg: Real Madrid (Real) v Torino (Tor); Garsen (Gar) v

Amsterdam (AFC)

HFS LOANS LEAGUE: President's Cup

Sheep (Sheep) v Stalybridge

BEAVER HOMES LEAGUE: Premier

division: Atherstone v Walsworth

Corby v VS Rugby

POINTE CENTRAL LEAGUE: First

division: Bolton v Blackburn (7.30);

Consett v Aston Villa (7.30); Leeds v

Sheff Wed (7.30); Manchester Utd v

Bradford (7.30); West Bromwich v

Noton Forest

(7.30) Second division: Burnley v Black-

pool (7.15); Hull v Huddersfield (7.0);

Nottingham Forest (7.0); Preston v

Wigan (7.0)

FIFA HARP LAGER CUP: Quarter-final

Sweden v Yugoslavia v Bohemia

IRISH LEAGUE CUP: Semi-final Post-

poned: Limer v Cliftonville

NEVILLE OVERTON COMBINATION:

AFC Bathurst v Vozov Town; Cardiff

Walford (7.15); Norwich v Portsmouth

(7.0)

CLYDEBANK STOCKBROKERS LEAGUE:

AFC Bathurst v Vozov Town; Cardiff

Walford (7.15); Norwich v Portsmouth

(7.0)

NORTHERN LEAGUE CUP: Semi-final

Pennine Newcom v Consett

NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST

LEAGUE: Premier division: Doncaster Utd

v Sutton Town

RUGBY UNION

Heineken Welsh League

Second division

Aberavon v Glamorgan W (7.0)

Club matches

Aberllynny v Sth Glam (nat) (7.0)

Rugby v Nuneaton

REPRESENTATIVE MATCH: Kent

Cups v Hertfordshire 1st (at Gosport, 7.30)

RUGBY LEAGUE

STONES BITTER CHAMPIONSHIP:

First division: Hull KR v Wigan

OTHER SPORT

BASKETBALL: Carlsberg National

League: First division: Kingston v

Thames Valley Tigers

SHOCKER: Bolton and Heddon (first

division: Hull KR v Wigan)

Taylor's meeting with officials shapes as crucial

BY PETER BALL.

BBC and BSkyB top ITV offer

BY PETER BALL

Portuguese offer to Robson

Rivers to cross: Bedford, right, the London marathon official, and Richter, a hostage turned runner, at Tower Bridge yesterday

Runners braced for London ordeal

BY MICHAEL COLEMAN

Officer's goal, page 26

Savicevic a doubt for Red Star

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

Van Zyl to tour W Indies

[illegible]

How to save 100's of frustrating hours preparing your Lotus 1-2-3® Business Plan

Dedicated Plans for Lotus 1-2-3, Excel, Supercalc 5, Quattro Pro

Oxford show starting speed

BY MIKE ROSEWELL, ROWING CORRESPONDENT

Juries change sail ruling

FROM BOB ROSS IN SAN DIEGO

[illegible][illegible]



MEDIA
A day at ITN
as its team
covers the
election war

LIFE & TIMES

WEDNESDAY APRIL 1 1992



SPECIAL OFFER
Save on luxury
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page 4

To E or not to E

A work of fiction translation, banning an important, if not vital, part of our communication apparatus, is slowly approaching fruition. Andy Martin avoids asking its author if it was for Adair

I was having tea in the Savoy with a man suffering from an unusual phobia: the way other people are afraid of spiders or mice, he has an unnatural aversion to the letter "e". His name is Gilbert Adair, but he prefers for the time being to be known simply as "Adair".

He had suggested we meet in a hotel in London. It had to be either the Savoy or the Ritz, the Grosvenor and the Dorchester were taboo. A waitress approached to take our order. "Tea or coffee?" she asked.

To any other ears the question was inoffensive enough, but of the three words two touched off small explosions in Adair's head. He winced and looked at her as if she should go and wash her mouth out with soap and water. "Lapsang Souchong," he replied.

"Sandwiches — cheese, eggs, cucumber..."

"Salmon," he said. "Cream scones?"

"Muffins."

Stray wisps of other conversations floated over my way. "I have it on good authority..." Adair automatically edited out the solecism: "I had it on good authority..."

Adair regards the fifth and most commonly used letter of the alphabet with distaste, but is not afflicted — as Roman Jakobson, the great theoretician of language, might have said — with "paradigmatic aphasia".

His vocalic embargo is no mere fadish eccentricity: it is an unforgiving artistic imperative. Like an obsessive method actor who adheres ruthlessly to an off-screen code of omertà to achieve authenticity in the role of tight lipped mafioso, Adair is enacting his work in progress: a translation of Georges Perec's *La Disparition*, a 300-page novel written entirely without e's and omitting the fifth of its 26 chapters. Adair calls the English version *A Void*.

Perec, who died in 1982 at the age of 45, was probably the greatest virtuoso of the French language this century. He wrote a 5,000 word palindrome, but is best known in this country for his last compendious novel, *Life — A User's Manual*, which traces the lives of all the occupants of an apartment block in Paris. The architecture of the book mirrors the layout of the building and the narrative structure is determined by the solution to the problem of how to move a knight around a 100-square chessboard without landing on any one square twice.

Inspired by the experiments of the Oulipo Group ("Ouvroir de la littérature potentielle" — "Workshop of potential literature") and the example of its mentor, Raymond Queneau, *La Disparition* belongs to the ancient and noble tradition of the "lipogram" (from the Greek, *leipo*, meaning to leave behind or desert), which draws on an aesthetic of omission, prohibiting a letter or letters from the linguistic repertoire.

Examples of the genre come down to us from Nestor of Laranda, who rewrote the *Iliad*, excluding alpha from the first canto, beta from the second, and so on, and Typhodorus of Sicily, who did something similar with the *Odyssey*.

As Perec pointed out in his essay, "A History of the Lipogram", all of us speak in lipograms nearly all the time. Unless I happen to say, "The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog", (a "pangram", which contains all the letters of the alphabet), I'm necessarily uttering a lipogram every time I open my mouth. So his novel can be seen as simply a methodical extension of the natural order of things.

When David Bellos, the translator of *Life — A User's Manual*, first approached Adair with the idea of translating *La Disparition*, Adair rejected it as "impossible". He was still using e's at the time. He considered all the rather useful

words and phrases he would have to abandon: "the", "he", "she", "we", "they", "there", "one day", "once upon a time". At least Perec could let loose with "la" and "il" if not "le" and "elle". What with "beginning", "middle" and "end" all having to go, there didn't seem to be much left. It was the ultimate challenge to the translator's art, will and nerve.

But the idea had been planted, and Adair tried out the first few sentences, then the first few pages, and found himself seduced. He took on the job, though, only on the firm understanding that there would be no deadline. "If I had to rush, I might go mad," he said. He tackled the book for four or five days at a stretch and then allows himself short breaks in which he goes on alphabetical holiday and lets out joyous cries of "wheweee".

There is a legend that somewhere in the original text lurks an elusive and persistent "e" that Perec, who would wake up nights sweating at the idea, never suc-

ceeded in eradicating. In this respect at least it is easier for Adair. "GP had to do without a PC. All I do is push a button and in a flash my Mac says: 'Not found'."

Adair once wrote his own obituary for *The Sunday Correspondent*, but it died before he did. His early years are the missing "e" of his life, which only really began when he arrived in Paris in May 1968, at the age of 23. Two weeks later the événements began, with rioting on the barricades. "I had such a utopian, radical vision of Paris," he says. "I thought, 'What took so long?'"

He stayed for 11 years and went native, establishing himself in the Hotel Voltaire where Baudelaire wrote some of *Les Fleurs du Mal*. Every spring he would wait for another revolution to bloom, and so it did, intellectually at least, in the writings of Barthes, Foucault, Derrida, Lacan. Adair met Barthes once or twice: he would see the great semiotician walking the boulevards of Paris, usually accompanied by adoring disciples, and he would follow him about, "trying to work out what signs Roland was looking at".

Adair taught English, wrote film criticism, appeared briefly in two films and scripted another in which the hero, Gilbert, is cannibalised (a part eventually played by John Paul Getty III). He returned to England to write at the end of the 1970s but all his books are in one way or another an echo of that time and those texts. *The Holy Innocent*, his first novel, a reworking of Jean Cocteau's *Les Enfants Terribles*, was based on his own experiences in Paris. Adair doesn't like it now, perhaps because it is overloaded with e's. The novel he has just completed is called *The Death of the Author*, borrowing its title from Barthes's famous essay but turning it into a metaphysical thriller.

Trying to compensate for frittering away his twenties, Adair is a self-confessed workaholic. "Iris Murdoch claims to finish a book and start on a follow-up in half an hour. With my books it's only half that," he is on the wagon now.

Adair is a writer who is as resistant to conventional mimetic (he calls it "illusionistic") narrative as many readers are to post-modernist language games and tricks. He sees all his writing as rewriting, an interpretation and critique of another's work. *Love and Death on Long Island*, his most recently published fiction, is a transposition of Thomas Mann's *Death in Venice*. He has also written sexually explicit sequels to the Alice books and *Peter Pan*. He can become so possessed by a writer that when he parodied Pope in a poem about castration, *The Rape of the Cock*, he found himself speaking in iambic pentameters.

So he was a natural for the unnatural job of translating *La Disparition*. In the centre of the

book is a series of classic French poems rewritten without "e's": thus Baudelaire's *Correspondances* becomes *Accords* by "Un fils adoptif du Commandant Aupick". Of these, Adair has retained only Rimbaud's sonnet "Vocalisations" (previously known as "Voyelles"), and has substituted revised versions of "Ozymandias", "The Raven" (now "A Black Bird") and Hamlet's entire "To be or not to be" soliloquy. Milton's "On His Blindness" becomes "On His Glaucoma".

Adair is keen to emphasise, however, that *A Void* is not just a futile tour de force, and contrasts it favourably with its only real competitor in the field of the lipogram, the 1930s novel *Gadsby: A Story of Over 50,000 Words Without Using the Letter E* by Ernest Vincent Wright.

Perec not only demonstrated that less can be more by enriching rather than impoverishing the language, but also turned the prohibition on e into a compelling narrative. The hero, Anton Voyl, is obsessed by the sense that something — but what? — is missing; then he himself goes missing. The

missing "e", the great Unnameable of the text, is a curse hanging over all the characters, who one by one die or disappear as they seek in vain the explanation of their fate. "It's a symbolic Holocaust story," Adair suggests, "a stylistic dramatisation of loss." His hypothesis is all the more plausible as "e", in French, is phonologically equivalent to "aux", so omitting the "e" is like getting rid of "them".

As if to make up for the rigours of *La Disparition*, Perec later wrote a sequel called *Les Revenances*, in which the "e" made a resounding return, but he vanquished all the other vowels. It is a work in the Roman noir tradition, freely mixing sex and violence, the Marquis de Sade, Proust and the *Dictionnaire Robert* (the French equivalent of the OED), but leaving out "a", "i", "o" and "u".

Right now, Adair is the least qualified man in the world to translate it. But in due course the challenge may become irresistible. Hence, when next we meet we'll enter Bert's beery Greek Street den, defend Perec, yell "Cheers!", chew beef stew, three veg, red

peppers 'n' eggs. Dessert? Yes — green jelly, sweet crépes, the best French cheese.

● *La Disparition* by Georges Perec is published by Denoel. *A Void*, translated by Gilbert Adair, is to be published by HarperCollins. The author is lecturer in French at the University of Cambridge, and is at work on a book, *Napoleon the Novelist*.

INSIDE
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TOMORROW
José Carreras and the great tenors



Hard on e's: translator Gilbert Adair even speaks without using words containing his *bête noir*

SINGLE LIFE

Lynne Truss muses on
the link between diet
and violent behaviour



day my next-door neighbour mentioned that she is partial to a spot of camembert and I reacted with such horror that she might have said she enjoyed jumping in front of tube trains to test their braking distance.

The only way to set one's mind at rest, I decided, is to do a bit of independent research. Follow a dampening unit around central London, for example, and offer

cubes of lard to people whose cars have just been immobilised. "Do not attempt to move it!" I might chuckle, springing out from behind the clamped car and proffering a platter of Cooken-on-sticks. "I wonder if you would be interested in taking part in a little survey I am doing?" I can imagine some interesting results. Or I could attend the check-out in Sainsbury's (surrounded by people saying "Funny, what happened to the crisps?") armed with a tub of low-fat yoghurt and a packet of pork scratchings, so that I can nibble little bits from each, monitoring my reactions. I could stand there with my hand on my head saying "Which way? Which way?"

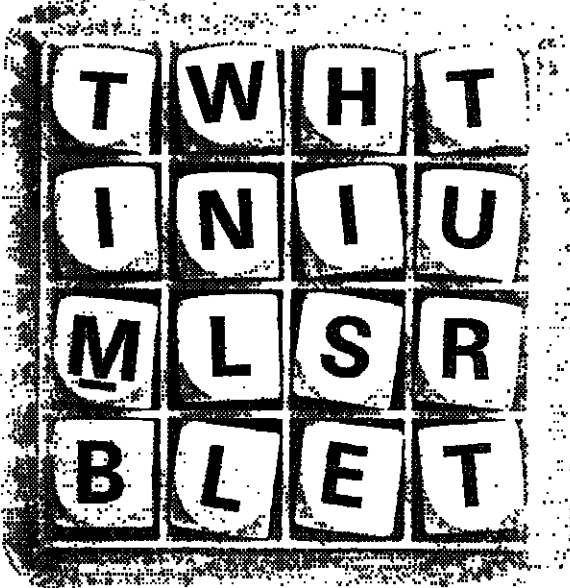
The check-out is the right place for the experiment because while other people seem undisturbed by the sight of their shopping hurtling serially towards them down the conveyor belt and slamming into a multiple pile-up at the end, I loathe the avoidable frenzy and entertain visions of donking the check-out lady on the head with a tin of Felix to slow her down. The only trouble is that, what with all the frantic packing and sweating and muttering, I shall probably forget to eat the pork scratchings. I get too worked up, really; and I don't suppose diet is the answer.

Either supermarkets must adopt the American system of packing the bags for the customer, or the government must relax the gun laws. The question: "Could you work more slowly please?" would pack a lot more punch if backed up by a loaded .45.

Last week's article was not only concerned with violence: it also suggested that low levels of cholesterol could be linked to unsuccessful suicide attempts. Great. Wonderful. First class. I am reminded of the time an editor said to me: "Perhaps you could just be like Dorothy Parker, and I misunderstand. What, keep slashing my wrists and drinking shoe polish? Keep waking up in hospital to hear wisecracking friends say: 'You've got to stop doing this, or you'll make yourself ill'?" If this low-fat existence offers the fate of Dorothy Parker, perhaps it is time to reconsider. After all, even the exciting prospect of death by spontaneous combustion (which I've always fancied somehow) is less inviting from the low-fat point of view, since one's body would burn for a considerably shorter time than would make the option properly worthwhile.

TOMORROW
Private life: John Diamond

MINISTER TELLS TRUTH.



All these words and more are in the puzzle above. Any fool can find them. That's Boggle, the fast fun game where you've got three minutes to find as many words as possible. Letters must adjoin but not necessarily in a straight line. Simple eh? Get Boggling.

EVER BEEN BOGGLED?
Boggle
THE 3 MINUTE WORD GAME

TOMORROW
Private life: John Diamond

LONDON PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA: Kurt Masur, who has just settled himself into one of the hottest seats in music — music director of the New York Philharmonic — is noted chiefly for his conducting of mainstream Austro-German dates. However, a programme of Hindemith, Gershwin and Tchaikovsky may reveal hidden insights. The wicked French pianist Claude Quirou is soloist in *Rhapsody in Blue*. Festival Hall, South Bank, London SE1 071-228 8800, 7.30pm.

WAX ACTS: Alan Rickman directs and Bob Crowley designs in a one-woman show written and performed by the inimitable American comedienne, Ruby Wax — in London until Saturday. Globe Theatre, Shaftesbury Avenue, London W1 071-484 5052, 8pm.

HALLS: Being British soprano Amanda Roocroft joins the orchestra in the first of three concerts this week as soloist in Richard Strauss's song-cycle, *Four Last Songs*. Tadaaki Oda also conducts an early work by Strauss, *Serenade* for 13 wind instruments, Mozart's *Divertimento in D* for strings, and Beethoven's *Seventh Symphony*. Free Trade Hall, Peter Street, Manchester M6 6BA 0161 7121, 7.30pm.

LES CONTES D'HOPFMAN: Neil Shiffert makes his debut as Hoffmann in John Schlegel's production of the Offenbach opera revised for the Royal Opera by Richard Cragg. In his first three roles, he sings by Sams (the Olympia), Leonora (Venus) and Aeneas (Hercules). The four Villains (Lindor, Coppola, Dapertout and Dr Miracle) are played by the four Villains. Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, London WC2 071-240 1060, 7pm.

ANNA KARENINA: Fair and imagination in Shared Experience's reworking version of Tolstoy's novel. Tricycle, Albany Road, NW8 071-328 1000. Mon-Sat, 8pm. 15mins. Final week.

THE COTTON CLUB: An impression of the Harlem nightspot, high on energy, low on story. Tricycle, Albany Road, NW8 071-328 1000. Mon-Sat, 8pm. 15mins.

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NEW RELEASES

HIGH HEELS (18): Luvemeer, talkative modems of Betty Shabazz, Victoria Abril, Maria Paredes. MGM Cinema 071-352 5080. Mon-Sat 12.30, 2.30, 4.30, 6.30, 8.30, 10.30. Sun 12.30, 2.30, 4.30, 6.30, 8.30, 10.30. Screen on the Hill 071-435 3560.

FREEDOM (15): Emma Stone is kidnapped into the future for a mind transplant. Denzong high-tech adventure, with Milla Jovovich, Anthony Hopkins. Director: Geoff Bawa. MGM Cinema 071-352 5080. Mon-Sat 12.30, 2.30, 4.30, 6.30, 8.30, 10.30. Sun 12.30, 2.30, 4.30, 6.30, 8.30, 10.30. Screen on the Hill 071-435 3560.

MY OWN PRIVATE IDOL (18): Guy Van Sant's quirky portrait of a man who suffers from a place to call home, struggling and agonizing by turns. With Peter Onorati, Kevin Connolly. Camden Place 071-485 2433. MGM Cinema 071-352 5080. Mon-Sat 12.30, 2.30, 4.30, 6.30, 8.30, 10.30. Sun 12.30, 2.30, 4.30, 6.30, 8.30, 10.30. Screen on the Hill 071-435 3560.

NECESSARY ROUGHNESS (12): American college football team makes good. Crisp, fast, with a little bit of humor. With Scott Bakula, Hector Elizondo, director: Stan Dragoti. MGM Cinema 071-352 5080. Mon-Sat 12.30, 2.30, 4.30, 6.30, 8.30, 10.30. Sun 12.30, 2.30, 4.30, 6.30, 8.30, 10.30. Screen on the Hill 071-435 3560.

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TODAY'S EVENTS

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THEATRE

Logic fails a libertine in love with illusion

Casanova Undone
Citizens, Glasgow

TWO previous plays by Dic Edwards have had reputable productions in Cardiff and Leicester. To judge by the published collection (Oberon Books) that includes this new work, and comes with the dubious accolade of a strikingly turgid recommendation by Edward Bond, Glasgow has drawn the short straw.

The earlier pieces set their discussions of socio-political issues in the Greece of the Colonels and in an English prison camp during a world war. *Casanova Undone* is as historical as its title suggests, with all the ambiguity that an archaic setting brings with it.

Symbolic? The literal truth? The uncertainties are echoed by the fact that Casanova's henchman (who, equipped with a false penis, warms up his aged and decrepit master's clients for him) is played by an actress, who assumes her female identity a long way into the action. Are we meant to realise from the beginning? Is Casanova meant to know? The elaborately set-up plot — the ancient route's favours are demanded by a former conquest in an attempt to renew her youth — thickens and clogs the drama even further with more impersonations and ambivalences. For a play set in the *Ville lumière* during the Enlightenment, motivation and message are remarkably fogged.

Robert David MacDonald's production in the Citizens' intimate (70-odd seats) Second Theatre makes a virtue of constraint. A central bed, replaced by a dining table, is flanked by chairs, a dressing table and the sidekick's chemical apparatus. This cuts out the script's postulated bath where the two female characters get to know each other — no great loss — and engenders a caustro-

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THEATRE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Karl Knight

ORFEO: Powerful performance from English National Opera in a revival of David Pountney's admired production of the Monteverdi opera, one of three works this season which draw inspiration from Greek myths and legends. Anthony Rolfe Johnson returns in the lead, Marie Angélique Burdick and Sally Burgess the Messenger. King's Theatre, London WC2 071-484 5052, 7.30pm.

REDECOVERING POMPEII: In 79AD Pompeii was caught like a fly in amber, but the city does not mean that nothing changes now. Since the last Pompeii exhibition in London, excavation has continued, techniques have been revolutionised, and all kinds of new discoveries have been made. This new show not only contains many of the most important works of art found on the site, but gives the world an absorbing progress report on the future of the past. No wonder it took all attendance records on one of its previous tour stops. Accademia Italiana, 24 Rutland Gate, London W1 071-325 3474. Daily 10am-6pm (Wed to 8pm), opens today until June 21.

SEVEN BERLIN AT 80: Always the centenary of the 50th anniversary, often at loggerheads with leading figures like Ben Nicholson and Barbara Hepworth, Sven Berlin remains at 80 as awkward a customer as ever, and still an artist and writer to reckon with. This retrospective of paintings, sculpture and drawings underlines the oddity and the serious commitment to art. Redgrave Theatre, 22 Moore Yard, London SW1 071-930 0294. Mon-Fri, 10am-5pm, opens today until April 23.

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of current theatre showing

HOUSE OF COMMONS: A play about a play, returns only. Seats at all prices.

THE CRACKWALKER: Urban savagery in Ontario, violence, abuse, grief, strong stuff, several strange. Gate, Prince Albert Pub, Pembroke Road, W1 071-229 0706. Mon-Sat, 7.30pm. 15mins.

DANCING AT LUGHNASSA: Brian Friel's Oliver Award-winning memory play, set at a Thirties Donegal. Gate, Prince Albert Pub, Pembroke Road, W1 071-229 0706. Mon-Sat, 7.30pm. 15mins.

THE DARK RIVER: An accomplished revival of Anthony Powell's drama, reality and nostalgia in an English dining room. Orange Tree, Clarendon Street, Richmond TW9 1DF 081-840 3833. Mon-Sat, 7.45pm. 15mins.

DEATH AND THE MAIDEN: Juliet Stevenson, Michael Byrne, and Patricia Suter in a new production of the play by Caryl Churchill. Gate, Prince Albert Pub, Pembroke Road, W1 071-229 0706. Mon-Sat, 7.30pm. 15mins.

DIGGING FOR FIRE: A drunken requiem for modern Ireland by Declan Hughes, a savage indictment but upliftingly played. Bush, Shepherd's Bush Green, W12 071-733 3380. Mon-Sat, 8pm. 15mins.

ELEPHANTSYNTH: Three generations of clever women, expert in spelling but emotionally troubled. Refusing play by Lee Blessing, subtly acted. Greenwich Studio, Prince of Orange, 180 High Road, SE10 071-858 2862. Tue-Sun, 8pm. 15mins.

AN EVENING WITH GARY LERICKER: Sometimes drink out at the farthest of a frustrated woman married to a soccer nut. Duchess, Catherine Street, WC2 071-733 3380. Mon-Sat, 8pm. 15mins.

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated with the symbol) on release across the country

EMMANUELLE BÉART: Jane Birkin. Chelmsford 071-351 2743/2743. Metro 071-437 0731. Renoir 071-487 8402.

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Architecture: Marcus Binney reports from Japan on some daring and spectacular new buildings

Beautiful visions have a price

Architectural masterpieces are now appearing in Japan by the dozen each year. In design, imaginative in detail and exquisite in finish, Japan is the richer for recruiting outstanding talent from abroad, from Britain, France, Italy and Switzerland. All this is in utter contrast to the glass boxes and concrete slabs of the previous quarter century, which were as anonymous and depressing as anywhere in the world.

Yet Japan's amazing building boom has been achieved at hideous cost to the natural environment, gobbling up rainforests at a scarcely believable rate. That is a point which Japanese construction companies, keen to promote a greener image, are seeking urgently to address.

For sheer grandeur, the best place to begin an assessment of modern Japanese architecture is Tokyo's new Metropolitan City Hall, the Nôtre Dame of the skyscraper world. The exterior, designed by Kenzo Tange, is set back in stages, in the manner of New York's Rockefeller Centre, but towards the top the twin towers are rotated 45 degrees, revealing cylindrical cores and creating the effect of giant belfries.

It is built by what the Japanese call the "superstructure" construction method. Instead of the usual grid of steel, rising floor by floor, there are a few gigantic pillars, grouped in fours at each corner, and "superbeams" every ten floors: so huge they fill a storey.

As a result, vast clear spans can be created within. The main public concourse runs the width of the building and is seven storeys high, if the open basement is included. There is a generosity with public space rarely seen since the great railway termini. Take the express lift to either of the public observation towers and you are once again in a vast space, surrounded by a soaring dome. By contrast, the granite-clad exterior is so intricate, like Japanese basket-weave, that it is hard to tell one storey from another.

Next stop is Sir Norman Foster's Century Tower, built for a Japanese publisher, who is so pleased he has commissioned two further buildings from Foster. The design is a joint venture between Foster and the Japanese construction company Obayashi, which has a nearly 1,000 architects on its staff and some 8,000 engineers. The best way to enter the building is via the car park. Emerging from the lift you gain the full effect of Foster's engineering conjuring trick, a

high-rise building without the traditional core, a glass cathedral where you can look out of the building in any direction: above, in front or to the sides.

The quality of light and sense of space is breathtaking. In engineering terms the achievement was to meet the ultra-stringent Japanese building regulations (stringent because of the danger of earthquakes) in a building with a full-height central atrium, overlooked by office floors with open balconies. Foster's solution is characteristically high-tech: a single, barely visible, toughened glass fireproofed air system, which prevents it from becoming a chimney and blows the smoke out of each floor of offices in an emergency.

Foster's leitmotif is a series of giant K braces laid sideways, stacked one above the other. As the arms taper, they have a distinctly Oriental look, suggestive of the entrance to a Japanese shrine.

Foster's interior is characteristically monochrome: pearl grey, dove grey, elephant grey, power and charcoal. Two huge water tables in black Zimbabwean marble, as smooth as mirrors, provide wonderful reflections, although incautious visitors regularly dunk their briefcases in the water. On either side the water flows in a perfect curtain over textured black walls which turn white with the reflections of the sky above.

To ring the changes, go next to Tokyo's new Port Terminal, designed by Minoru Takeyama, living proof that Post-Modernism, with its brilliant play on colour and geometric shapes, is alive and flourishing, for all the repeated pronouncements of its "death" in Britain.

Once again, the liveliness is grey set off by flashes of scarlet. Externally the entire building is conceived as a staircase, with steps laid in a chessboard pattern of grey and black stone. Inside, the pyramid is an airy new restaurant, with tables stepped down in terraces so everyone has a view of the harbour.

The ultimate in Post-Modernism is the Yamato International building, with a silhouette that resembles a series of puffed balloons. It is a composition like a series of stage scenes, set one in front of the other. The building, a huge clothing warehouse, is designed to be seen from one point of view, where the clouds step up in a series of alternating

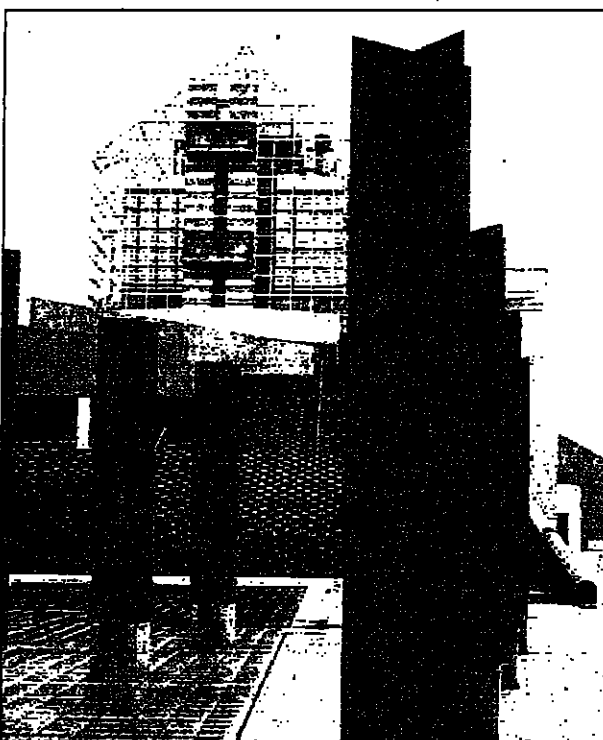


The Nôtre Dame of the skyscraper world? The central towers of Tokyo's new Metropolitan City Hall, by Kenzo Tange, resemble belfries

ing curves. Silver cladding, combined with frosted glass, give it a surreal quality.

Some of Tokyo's smartest new buildings are multi-level blocks of fashion shops. The Tokyo Design Centre, by Mario Bellini, is a variant of Michael Graves's Post-Modernism, all pastel colours and square windows. What gives it drama is the outdoor "Scala Regia Stair" ascending diagonally through the building and inviting one to explore. At the top is a larger-than-life statue of a horse. Behind it, by clever planting, Bellini creates the illusion of a hillside, with steps pattering out into woodland.

The one new building I took strongly against was in Kyoto, a vast pensioners' condominium called the Life Inn. Outside it is a cascade of identical zig-zag balconies, curiously designed so that not a single window can be seen. At the back of the entrance hall you look out at a spectacular waterfall channeled down the hillside. These contrived waterfalls are one of the wonders of Japanese interiors, planned



Tokyo's Port Terminal, designed by Minoru Takeyama, is proof that Post-Modernism is alive and flourishing

with fantastic tropical luxuriance, but at the Life Inn not a living fern or leaf is to be seen, only hard rock and painted concrete.

Japanese architects work miracles with concrete surfaces. My favourite is Fumihiko Maki's municipal gymnasium in Tokyo. The low, tapering cylindrical walls give it the shape of a giant salad bowl. What animates it and changes it into a giant manta ray is the layered silver roof. The illusion is helped by the narrow bands of windows beneath the lip of the roof, like so many bared teeth.

By contrast to the rough British variety, Japanese concrete is as smooth as lacquer. Yet this smoothness has a terrible price. In Japan concrete is set in wooden panels or frames, made from South Pacific rainforest trees. In Japan, 20 per cent of imported wood goes to make these frames for concrete. They are dumped after being used at most three times.

According to an article in

the Japanese magazine *Industria*, the Philippines have recently banned the export of wood to Japan, and the Japanese are now dependent on the Malaysian states of Sabah and Sarawak for supplies. But these, say *Industria*, can only provide lumber for another ten years, before they are denuded.

Part of the problem is that the ultra smooth finish is achieved by using plywood, which is chosen to frame the concrete because it is lighter and quicker to cut than metal. Now the Japanese contractors Obayashi are looking at ways of reducing the waste of natural resources. Specially coated panels could be reused up to ten times. Or South Pacific wood could be used only for the outer layers of the frame "sandwich", with coniferous wood in between.

Intense effort is now being put into designing energy-saving buildings. If the same concern could be put into saving energy in the construction process, Japan would be rendering a service to the whole world.

ARTS BRIEF

Play black

PERHAPS now we can be sure that South Africa is changing. From today the Musicians' Union in Britain is ending its ban on members working in South Africa — a boycott which has been in force since the mid-Fifties, and which was continued last year despite the general lifting of sporting and cultural boycotts elsewhere. However, the MU still advises its members sternly that "purely commercial engagements" in South Africa "will be discouraged". British musicians are expected to do some educational or fund-raising work for black communities when in South Africa.

Second chances

HOV good were the flops of the great Broadway tunesmiths? The Barbican may provide a partial answer when, each Sunday afternoon this summer, semi-staged performances of neglected musicals will be given on the stage of Cinema 1. Rodgers and Hart's last collaboration, *By Jupiter*, opens the season (Sundays in May), followed in June by the Arthur Schwartz/Dorothy Fields show *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn*. Cole Porter's *Jubilee* will be performed in July, with *One Touch of Venus* — the collaboration between Kurt Weill and Ogden Nash — in August. Each musical will be performed uncut, to piano accompaniment.

Cash afoot

BRITAIN'S independent dance-makers have received a huge boost from the Arts Council: the 1992-93 allocation for independent dance projects has been increased by 92 per cent to £729,114 in 1992-93. Among the main beneficiaries are Are Dance Company, with £35,000 to tour a new production based on the story of Bluebeard; Laurie Booth, with £34,000 for new work collaborating with sculptor Anish Kapoor; and Vidusaka-Kalika, a festival of contemporary South Asian Dance, which gets £40,000 for events in London, Liverpool and Leicester.

Last chance...

PAINES Plough's atmospheric, bilingual production of *Down and Out in Paris and London*, which wrings memorable theatrical images out of Orwell's wry sociological commentary, leaves the Riverside Studios (081-748 3354) on Saturday. Anna Furse will presumably have recruited non-professionals for her crowd scenes in Glasgow, where the show continues, before proceeding appropriately to Paris.

THEATRE: PREVIEW

Making sure Eliza is a good girl

How do you produce the fractured vowels of Eliza in *Pygmalion*? Heather Neill goes to the Royal National Theatre for guidance

Frances Barber reckons that she has had to learn three accents to play Eliza Doolittle in the new National Theatre *Pygmalion*. There is the flower-seller's Cockney; then the uneasy, carefully articulated transition to drawing room acceptability; and finally natural-sounding "received pronunciation", or RP. Meanwhile, on other evenings she slips into a Texan drawl and becomes Maxine in Tennessee Williams's *The Night of the Iguana*.

When she feels secure with an accent she can "put it in a box to be opened with the dressing room key". Such confidence, Barber says, she could not have managed without Joan Washington.

Washington, the National's accent coach, has been the power behind the speech in numerous productions, including *A View from the Bridge* and the current *Angels in America*. She is a trained phonetician and could have held her own with *Pygmalion*'s Professor Higgins himself, while he boasts of being able to distinguish 130 vowel sounds, she can manage 124.

Like Higgins, too, she can tell one London accent from another. "The South tends to be more nasal, more sibilant than the North and East." While Washington is quite *au fait* with the jargon of phonetics ("more friction in the plosives") and knows her Sweet and Daniel Jones, the phoneticians on whom Shaw based Higgins, she seems



Coach parked: Joan Washington in the Royal National Theatre's Olivier auditorium

happier with a more descriptive language of her own. "Americans tend to be more front-footed in their speech, following through to the end of the sentence. The English are generally backfooted, more apologetic; they 'pitch twiddle' to show they've stopped, while Americans invade space with voice as well as body." But however helpful the generalisations, voice cannot be separated from character.

"If the accent is right, the movement will be, too."

Washington likes to be involved from the beginning of rehearsals, and would not graft accent on when the rest of the work has been done: what she describes as "bandage jobs". Her tape library is expanding constantly. For *Pygmalion*, it was a case of finding and recording the oldest speakers available. The Cockney current before 1914

is rarely heard now, and RP has gone through various fashions too. Both, says Washington, have become more nasal. Cockney was more dynamic, with people "offering" ends of phrases. "Offering" suggests an invitation to another speaker.

An actor acquiring an accent goes through much the same process as Eliza does. First, find the point of tension, which may be in the jaw (as in

Cockney), the lips or the tongue. Disconcertingly, as it is designed to keep out social climbers, RP is the only accent that does not have one. This, says Washington, makes it the hardest of all to learn.

Having placed the sounds correctly, the student has to acquire the "tune" of the accent. Eliza tailored her vowels and consonants to RP requirements when she visits Mrs Higgins for tea, but she is still unsure how to make them work together naturally. Her first two sentences, stuffed with meteorological information, are in fact designed to practise the "i" sound in "island" and the "a" in "change". Among consonants, the lack of initial "h" and the "th" mispronounced "f" will have presented more problems.

Washington and Barber admire Eliza's spirit. She remains essentially unchanged by her transformation. Washington: "Eliza learns not only to assimilate RP but to use it to project *Eliza*. She is a clear match for Higgins." For Barber, Shaw gives the actress everything she needs to build the character. "How somebody speaks tells you how a character should be played. Eliza is a prototype feminist, learning as she goes. It's there in the writing; you unpick the stitches at your peril."

● *Pygmalion* is in preview from Friday, opening April 9 at the Olivier, Royal National Theatre (071-926 2252)

TELEVISION REVIEW

Hallo, hallo, what's all this?

If Mori ever polled such a thing, it would likely discover that the making of successful television detective fiction needs oddball characterisation in the main role and a strong sense of location. *Bergo* and *Jersey*, *Columbo* and *Los Angeles* are examples of television longevity achieved on a diet of quirkiness and geographic flavour underpinned by high-fibre writing.

If this is so, the novels of John Harvey are promising ground for adaptation. His detective-inspector, Charlie Resnick, fond of jazz and exotic sandwiches, carrying some moral baggage not always glimpsed in portrayals of policemen (or indeed in policemen, full stop), carries hope of a substantial television experience beyond reliance on mere plot.

So Resnick came to BBC 1 last night with some chance of being a winner, albeit shoved down the peak time tunnel by the election coverage. *Resnick* is a modest number in terms of length, one story in three episodes, but with a hint that

Resnick may return for greater exposure later. I hope so.

The setting is Nottinghamshire, no mean literary county (Lawrence, Silkin), although as with the Bristol setting of *Casualty*, the relevance of the environment is more to do with tone and accent than geography.

Resnick is a copper with a conscience, involved with a seamy child abuse case and a squalid murder, the two running in parallel and woven together via a social worker to whom Resnick takes a shine. Perhaps "shine" is too frivolous a word to apply to a lugubrious character with hooded eyes which carry more questions than answers.

The title role is beautifully underplayed by Tom Wilkinson. If real life strayed into the portrayal, Wilkinson could afford to be less gloomy. He has lately graced two serials, the excellent *Underbelly* and the superb *Prime Suspect*. This third Wilkinson excursion does not have the brutal edge of either of the others and the photography is alarmingly ob-

essed with rapid cutting between one close-up and the next: now a face, now a row of paint tins in a shop, next another face, now a suspect urinating down a policeman's leg. This editing has become a television fashion accessory, which some will find enhances the body of the work, but which I think diverts attention from it.

The first episode was a neat wind-up for the two to come and clearly something in Resnick's past is about to be brought out of the woodwork by several things in his present. For all the swiftness of the editing, this is slow-burn drama in which careful characterisation sets down the markers for plot development. Wilkinson's thoughtful Charlie Resnick will undoubtedly attract comparisons with Inspector Morse, though the latter would not be caught dead listening to jazz. If he was, rely on Resnick to worry out the cause of death, with just as much style.

PETER BARNARD

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Heading towards a retreat

Valerie Grove finds out why Averil Burgess is quitting as headmistress of South Hampstead High School for Girls

The headmistress has had enough. Never mind that her school is in the top ten of the league table, and sends girls sailing into Oxford and Cambridge. Averil Burgess, head of South Hampstead High School for Girls for the past 18 years, announced to the parents last week that she is giving up the daily tyranny of school life, at only 53.

"I've spent a third of my life in this job and I'm clapped out," is how she put it to one enquirer, though she looks far from "clapped out", cutting a chic, energetic and in-command figure.

But to be at her desk at 7.45 every morning, crisp and coiffed, requires unrelenting effort, and Mrs Burgess — a Miss Brodie to her *crème de la crème* — has come to one of those 1990s life-choices. Having achieved the pinnacle of her profession, she realises that all she really wants is freedom and time.

Friends who have taken early retirement are a corrupting influence: they seem to lead such charmed lives. So she stepped up the mortgage payments, and her little Georgian house in Highgate village is almost paid for. She has 33 years' unbroken pension payments behind her. "So I can now afford to go," she says, "while people still say, 'How frightful,' and not 'Goodness, she's been there a long time.'"

The South Hampstead girl has not changed much. The school which produced Fay Weldon, Julia Neuberger, Helena Bonham Carter (and before that Glynis Johns, Angela Lansbury, Gwen Ffrangcon-Davies) still encourages confidence.

It was there the other day for a careers forum and can report that they are typical contemporary young women who flick their hair from side to side and fling a cool, challenging gaze upon the world.

"On my second day here," Mrs Burgess says, "we had our prize giving. The next day I had a very irate Susannah Tomalin, daughter of Claire, in my office saying, 'I want to make a complaint' and it was about the singing of 'Let us now praise famous men'."

"And the headgirl then was a splendid young woman, Ruth Mackenzie, now director of Nottingham Playhouse. Our girls have always been concerned about issues, and prepared to stand up for their right to speak. We do a lot of debating, and still encourage that old-fashioned skill, public speaking."

But girls' grammar schools always did so, and produce women of the Margaret Hilda Roberts type: the difference is that previous generations were more inclined to chuck in their opportunities for domestic life, unheard-of in girls' sixth forms today.

South Hampstead came sixth in last year's school league tables of A-level results, as well it might: the school is rigorously selective, and situated in a highly motivated catchment area. Mrs Burgess

thinks that league tables are no more than "a tiny snapshot" of a school, but she is none the less pleased that they dispense the notion that the ancient and famous public schools are in fact the urban grammar schools.

South Hampstead is part of the Girls Public Day School Trust (GPDST), founded by four philanthropic Victorian ladies. The schools used to be direct-grant but are now independent, and they are for many reluctantly fee-paying parents the nearest thing to a grammar school. Up to 18 per cent of the girls are on the assisted placement scheme or on bursaries.

"Most of the parents say: 'I went to a grammar school and that's what I want for my daughter.' I accept that the grammar school has gone, and I regret it deeply. The sad paradox is that a significantly smaller proportion of the lower socio-economic

groups now goes to university than 25 years ago. The grammar-school factor put more bright boys and girls into university. I'm afraid I'm on the side of the aspirers. I wish we could get the best of quality and equality right. I am passionately opposed to the flattening out of education."

She is also passionate about single-sex schools. When girls long to go off to boys' schools in the sixth form, she understands. "They want a change, they want to test themselves, they feel 'I know I may not like it and I may not be doing the right thing, but I feel I've got to try it.' One of our most intelligent and articulate girls went to Wellington last year and came back after a week and we warmly welcomed her back."

Although from a strong Welsh teaching tradition (her grandfather and great grandfather were both headmasters) she was intending to go into personnel management herself, but followed her husband into teaching. She taught history in various state schools — co-ed secondary modern, comprehensive, grammars.

When she was 30, her marriage broke down, and she applied to Wimbledon High, another GPDST school. "I owe my career to Mrs Piper, the then head," she says. When Mrs Piper went on a sabbatical on a banana boat to Jamaica, leaving Mrs Burgess in charge, Mrs Burgess found she liked it. She won the headship of South Hampstead at only 35.

Not only is 18 years a very long headship; the inter-personal wear and tear is exhausting. Expectations have grown among parents and girls (you cannot slap down the Hampstead parent) and to deliver a quality education is very demanding for everyone.

She is a convert to GCSE. "It's the coursework that enables us to stretch the ablest candidates. Some of them write mini-theses. And the stuff they produce in art is much richer and more interesting."

Her chief criticism of exams is the fine distinction in A level pass grades so the pupils may toil for two years,



Averil Burgess: 'I'm afraid I'm on the side of the aspirers. I am passionately opposed to the flattening out of education'

curricular activities, coursework, visits, work experience, shadowing; now we're into work experience abroad, and constantly expanding. Expectations have grown among parents and girls (you cannot slap down the Hampstead parent) and to deliver a quality education is very demanding for everyone.

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Her chief criticism of exams is the fine distinction in A level pass grades so the pupils may toil for two years,

only to find that a D or E pass grade has negligible currency. At her school, the A level success rate is 97 per cent, 77.5 per cent with an A or B grade.

Yet she sheds the headmistress's mantle of authority without regret. "On first becoming a head, you realise that you change a situation just by going into it. Everything you say is potentially more significant: a casual word has reverberations you never intended."

Parents will expect headmistresses to be formidable, like the tweedy Miss B.N. Champion, who was head of Ashby-de-la-Zouch Girls' Grammar School in Mrs Burgess's

own schooldays. "But I remember being surprised to find, on an outing to the circus, that Miss Champion had a human side," she says.

"I once saw a parent in Sainsbury's who said, 'I never expected to see you here.' I said, did you think I shopped at Fortnum's? and she said: 'I never thought of you shopping at all!'"

When people ask her what she will now do, she replies: "Much less." But she will probably be just as busy, only leading a more portfolio kind of life on several committees and councils on education policy, including the National

Commission on Education. She may also travel the world, but in the meantime she is mastering her ancestral language, Welsh.

Next week, she will be at Nant Gwribeyrn, a deserted quarry village which is now the national language centre.

"It is total immersion, no TV, no radio, no newspapers, no alcohol, and only Welsh spoken: it is a retreat from the world," she says, "so I shan't even know who has won the election."

Today, however, is the mock election at South Hampstead, where the arguments will be eloquently and ringingly expressed.

AND BRIEFLY

A sweet choice

ELECTION fever has already stimulated industry. Thorntons, the chocolatiers, is selling Vote Chocolate roses and other edible treats for the undecided, and British Rail buffets have come up with an Electoral Roll — containing "red sausage, blue cheese, yellow mustard and green lettuce" — at the suitably inflated price of £1.79. The Museum Store in Covent Garden, London, is selling sets of election postcards based on historic posters for £2.25 a pack of ten (£2 for Times readers flourishing this cutting before April 9). And to cap it all, the Victoria & Albert Museum is running an exhibition of political campaign memorabilia, Election Fever — or Fatigue. The only problem is that it does not start until April 29.

Super buy

TESCO has linked with the fashion designer Jeff Banks (of Warehouse and Clothes Show fame) to produce an environmentally friendly range of clothing for men, women and children which will be in 110 stores from this month.

Good Goods are made of "100 per cent Green Cotton" which means "the cotton is hand-picked to avoid using chemical defoliants." Mr Banks says. There are more selling points for those who don't care about the environment, including the fact that these T-shirts and trackuits can be tumble-dried without "twisting" as some cotton garments do. Prices range from £6.99 for children's T-shirts to £19.99 for a woman's sweatshirt.

Picture list

WEDDING lists are usually so dull. They contain the china and cutlery, bed linen and other necessities — however luxurious — of married life. So The Art Collection, the innovative, moderately priced art gallery in Chelsea, has come up with a clever twist: an art-lovers' wedding list. "We are inviting couples to look around the gallery and choose some pictures, which range in price from £50 to £1,250. We note those down and they let their friends know they have a wedding list with us," says Nick Hely-Hutchinson, the gallery's proprietor. "Friends can club together for one painting — and we give the couple 10 per cent of their total wedding list sales towards any purchase they might care to make with us." The Art Collection is at 3 Elystan Street, London SW3 3NT (071-584 4664).

Party ties

THE closing date for entries for the V & A's discreet little exhibition later this month of the world's most indiscreet ties was yesterday. But still there has been no entry from the prime minister — although both Neil Kinnock and Paddy Ashdown have made donations. "But we have been promised one from him and — in his case — might make an exception and extend the date to after April 9," says Clavin Bigg, who is organising the exhibition. Alas for the V & A, the ties donated by the party leaders are among the most boring (Paddy Ashdown's mauve and brown with multi-coloured diagonal stripes; Neil Kinnock's innocuous pattern) whereas those from unknown donors make much more exciting viewing. The V & A plans to display the ties in a case in its new European Ornament Gallery, but has not yet set a date.

VICTORIA MCKEE

SPECIAL OFFER

Enjoy the good life at up to half the cost

READERS can save up to 50 per cent on a Hilton European break in Britain, and get two nights for the price of one on the Continent, simply by collecting five of the six differently numbered tokens being printed in The Times every day this week.

When you have collected five tokens, you can make a reservation by telephone.

Lists of participating hotels were printed on Monday, and will be repeated later in the week, together with a booking form.

To book at one of the 35 hotels in Britain (25 or 50 per cent off), call Hilton Central. Reservations on 0923 2444000 (ref T1 92). For one of 29 hotels in 12 other countries (two nights

for the price of one), call 081-780 1155 (ref T1 Europe). The offer is available from April 4 until September 9.

For example, a two-night weekend at the London Olympia Hotel would usually cost a guest £120 — but with the help of The Times tokens you need pay only £60. A two-night weekend at the Hilton National Edinburgh would cost you £70 instead of £140.

For full details and conditions, call the Times/Hilton Brochure Hotline on 0235 865656, quoting T1 92 for UK breaks, or T1 Europe for Continental breaks. The Times promotion offer rules apply.

Cut out and collect the coupon below. More will appear tomorrow and each day this week.



Elisabeth Nietzsche was a remarkably nasty woman who gave posterity a distorted version of her brother's work

The philosophy of the dangerous sister

Elisabeth Nietzsche had two careers: one was as the doyenne of an Aryan colony in Paraguay; the other, which she switched to exactly one century ago, was as the self-appointed literary executrix of her brother, Friedrich Nietzsche, arguably Germany's greatest philosopher.

Her first career was a disaster. Her second, by a process of deceit, misrepresentation and plain forgery, turned Nietzsche into a household name and the official philosopher of fascism.

Elisabeth's rise to eminence was unique. For National Socialism was the macho ideology par excellence, lauding German women as breeders of the Master race, but seldom as individuals.

More has been written, more bafflingly, about Nietzsche than perhaps any other modern thinker; but his sister usually lurks malignantly in the footnotes. In 1946 the house where Elisabeth collected Nietzsche's works was sealed on the orders of the communist authorities: it was only reopened after the revolution in East Germany in 1989, allowing the full periphery of her life to be exposed.

From infancy she both idolised and competed with her precocious brother. After the death of their father the children were brought up by a handful of elderly, pious and distinctly peculiar women including their dim and beleaguered mother.

In Nietzsche's philosophy this upbringing sometimes expressed itself in the form of blistering misogyny in perhaps his most oft-quoted phrase he said: "Are you vir-

ing women? Do not forget your whip." Scared of intelligent women, he never wed. In Elisabeth, the effects of an unequal upbringing were more complex. She opposed feminism as "a movement of spinsters, whose adherents are generally childless women", and she described the ideal woman as one who "tries to lighten her husband's burdens, to refresh him after his dreary hours of work...". However, that was not how she behaved.

Elisabeth controlled men with aplomb, alternately beguiling and bludgeoning them into co-operation. As a role model she looked to Cosima Wagner, the wife of the composer Richard Wagner. Haughty, stylish and prejudiced, Cosima played an extraordinary role in his life as lover, companion, mother, diarist, administrator and co-creator of the Wagner myth. Friedrich Nietzsche and Richard Wagner became close friends (and bitter enemies), and Elisabeth resolved to find herself a Wagner.

At the first Bayreuth festival in 1876 she alighted on Bernhard Förster, a violently anti-Semitic teacher. Elisabeth saw him as her Siegfried, a visionary whom she could propel to greatness. They married in 1885. They decided to travel to Paraguay and build a



Family ties: Elisabeth and Friedrich Nietzsche posing for their confirmation pictures

would be banned and German peasants could cultivate Lutheran and (oddly enough) vegetarian values.

The colony, Nueva Germania, was a disaster (although some of the descendants still survive). Förster proved a broken reed, and poisoned himself at the end of a six-week drinking binge in 1889.

Even before Förster's death, Elisabeth had received news of the mental collapse of her

brother. Friedrich had bitterly and jealously opposed her marriage to Förster, and long before his breakdown he said of his sister: "There can be no question of reconciliation with that vengeful anti-Semitic goose." But her brother's madness was Elisabeth's long-awaited opportunity for fame.

She abandoned Paraguay in 1891 and for the next 40 years dedicated herself to pro-

marketing his philosophy, or rather her version of it. She published his abandoned journals as philosophy, and she trumpeted the great anti-nationalist and anti-Semite as an imperialist, a nationalist and a racist. Friedrich would have been appalled, but for the last ten years of his life he was insane and was dead by 1900.

The Nietzsche Archive, she built in Weimar, became a

feted by the far right and thrice nominated for the Nobel Prize for literature. Only a few individuals, such as Franz Overbeck, her brother's old friend, saw through her. "She is often praised now as a saint among sisters," he said. "But this will change. The time will come when she will be considered a prime example of the type: dangerous sisters."

She convinced Adolf Hitler (who probably never read a word of Nietzsche) that her brother was the apostle of fascism. In return, the old lady and her archive received a stipend from the Führer's personal bank account. When she died at 89, most of the prominent Nazis, including a visibly emotional Hitler, attended her funeral.

Elisabeth was a remarkable, and remarkably nasty woman. She attained an unrivalled, if undeserved, cultural reputation in pre-war Europe, but she did so at the expense of her brother's philosophical legacy.

Nietzsche had prophesied as much. In *Ecce Homo*, his autobiography, he had written: "One day there will be associated with my name the recollection of something frightful, of a crisis like no other before on earth, of the profoundest collision of conscience, of a decision evoked against everything that had until then been believed in, demanded, sanctified: 'I am not a man, I am dynamite.'"

BEN MACINTYRE

Ben Macintyre is the author of *Forgotten Fatherland: The Search for Elisabeth Nietzsche*. His new book, *The Search for Elisabeth Nietzsche*, is published by Faber and Faber.

of her brother's

EEPOST, Springfield Avenue, Harrogate, North Yorkshire, HG1 5



Melinda Wittstock spends a day at ITN as its team covers the election war over 'Jennifer's Ear'

Nuances that shape the news



Five short sentences: Julia Somerville and Alastair Stewart brainstorm the start of the News At Ten

Few outsiders would ever guess the extent of time and painstaking effort that goes into writing News At Ten's five songs. Every word, every nuance, the very rhythm of each headline, is debated by presenters and editors as adrenalin surges through the newsroom in that last hour before transmission.

The words accompanying each of Big Ben's chimes on ITN's flagship news programme, particularly during such a closely-fought election campaign, must be just right. "It's the first impression viewers get, and of course the politicians listen carefully," Simon Bucks, the News At Ten editor, explained last Thursday night as Julia Somerville, Alastair Stewart, Michael Brunson, political editor, and David Mannion, ITN editor of ITV programmes, crowded around his computer terminal to brainstorm the five short sentences that would sum up the day's complex developments.

Bong! Tories admit putting paper that named the girl on to her doctor, Somerville's first headline reads at 9:12pm. "What about Major? Bucks asks. "I think he said Kinnock wasn't fit to govern, or maybe that was Patten," Brunson says. Later: "Did Major say he didn't know the name of the girl?" Bucks asks. Brunson: "Yes, he says his hands are clean." By 9:47pm they settle on: "Major insists he didn't know the name of Labour's health girl."

Bong! "But mystery remains: who leaked her name in the first place?" gets changed to: "But the Tories admit we put a newspaper on to her doctor."

Bong! The doctor's phone call: how did the papers get the name? isn't quite right either. "What about the tape? We've got to show the name was mentioned in the conversation," Somerville says. "How about 'The doctor says the papers knew the name when they phoned'?" Somerville suggests. "OK," Bucks says.

Bong! Doctors give the thumbs down to the government's health changes. "No, no, no. Make it BMA: we've had too many doctors," Bucks says.

Bong! And Mike Tyson is sent to jail for six years for rape.

The atmosphere is tense in ITN's £43 million glass fortress, as employees begin their newsgathering 15 hours earlier. Staff, admin-

ished the day before by Stewart Purvis, the editor-in-chief, for allowing the BBC One O'Clock News to pull ahead of ITN on the Jennifer Bennett controversy, are determined to scoop the BBC.

"Today we need to get to grips with who is lying to whom," David Mannion tells editors at the 9:10am meeting, the first of many throughout the day.

A live feed from Neil Kinnock's Nottingham press conference electrifies the newsroom. Trembling with rage, Julie Hall, his press secretary, has denied leaking the name of the girl whose illness inspired Labour's emotional election broadcast, and journalists have been caught by ITN cameras surrounding Peter Hitchens, the Daily Express journalist, to demand that he reveal how he obtained the girl's name.

The hunt is on. "Go back to Tory Central Office, the grandfather, the mother, the father, the consultant and the Express," Purvis instructs programme editors at the 10:30am meeting.

While the BBC often excels at analysis, ITN is at its best when

there is a scoop in the air. From the time ITN got Sir Nicholas Lloyd, the Daily Express editor, to admit that his paper got the name of the girl's consultant from Tory Central Office, ITN led the BBC. The interview gave Brunson the ammunition he needed to force William Waidegrave, the health secretary, to admit later that afternoon that the Tories had put the consultant in touch with the Express. By 8pm, ITN had its scoop — a tape of Hitchens asking the consultant whether the girl was John Bennett's daughter.

Along a corridor behind the newsroom, journalists prepare Lunchtime News reports. Mark Webster, a political correspondent, tells Mike Turner, picture editor, what he needs. "Let's have a double-whammy of Clarke and Patten. A bit of Clarke thuggery, some Patten thuggery, then some sweet-man Major with his 'it would never be like this if Attlee was running Labour' — pass the motion discomfort bags. God bless him!"

Dr Jack Cunningham, Labour's campaign co-ordinator, has just accused Chris Patten of leaking the girl's name to the Express. Harry Smith, a general news reporter, is duly despatched to Tory Central Office to doorstep Patten. It is 12:10pm. "Either he [Patten] is preparing his answer or he's sneaked out the back," Smith says. Near the end of the Lunchtime News, ITN and BBC crews confirm with a press officer that Patten had indeed sneaked away.

The first of several News At Ten meetings starts at 2:45pm. At 4pm, Phil Moger, editor of the Evening News, tells me he is too busy to let me watch him prepare the 5:40pm bulletin. John Suchet, who is writing the "links" between reports, explains: political coverage has to be interrupted by Bill Neely's report on Tyson's sentencing from Indianapolis because the live satellite link goes down at 5:49pm. "If Brunson overruns on his live link all hell will break loose in the control room." In the end, the Neely report goes without hitch, except the "aston" (subtle) identi-

fying Andreas Whitman Smith, editor of The Independent, never comes up on screen.

Tension is running high minutes before the 7pm Channel Four News, as Jon Snow, the presenter, and Richard Tait, the editor, discuss questions for Kenneth Clarke. Roy Hattersley and Sir David Steele. "It is not usually this fraught," Huw Roberts, the chief press officer, says.

By 8pm the newsroom is pulsating. An excited Alastair Stewart bounds up with news that ITN has obtained from the consultant a tape which might prove that Hitchens got the girl's name from Tory Central Office. "Someone's telling a porky," he says.

At 9:15pm Shaun Woodward, the Tories' communications director, calls Michael Brunson. Brunson picks up his notepad and reaches for the phone. "Hi. Yeah... yeah. I haven't heard the tape myself... No, but what is clear is that the Express already had the name. We are told by the consultant that it was the second conversation, yes... Yes, I accept that."

What did Woodward say? "Oh, he just wanted to emphasise that it was the second conversation. If it had been the first, then the Express would only have had 15 minutes to get the name from a source other than Tory Central Office." The scoop does not seem nearly as exciting as it did an hour earlier.

"Good Evening," The election campaign has been gripped by a furious row... Julia Somerville broadcasts. Within minutes Owen Smith, the news editor, gets the first of three calls from Hitchens. He was angry ITN had not contacted him, and criticises them for leaving open the possibility that he got the name with the Tories' help. ITN insists its coverage is accurate, but at 10:25pm Somerville reads the main points again: "Peter Hitchens told ITN tonight he had not been given the name by the Tories."

At the end of the day, 30 viewers had complained about pro-Tory bias: only four about pro-Labour bias. Several said they were "sick and tired" of election news; one even asked ITN to stop covering politics until after the election.

● The BBC announces its election night coverage plans today, and ITN details its schedule tomorrow.

Clear picture of the video boom

Researchers are finding new ways to track the way we use our videos. Stephan Buck reports

Up to now, most of the audience research information into the use of the video recorder has concentrated on timeshift — the use of the machine to record and play back programmes transmitted by television channels. This information is derived by AGB, the research company, for Barb (Broadcasters' Audience Research Board), using electronic meters attached to 4,500 representative households throughout the country.

Now, for the first time, detailed information on the other use of the VCR, for watching rented or bought pre-recorded tapes, has emerged from AGB's VideoTrack service, through Barb's meters, by labelling pre-recorded videos with unique electronic "fingerprints".

About 70 per cent of homes have a VCR, and the broadcasting and advertising industries are interested in the extent to which they swell the "live" audience for programmes through their time-shifting activities.

In its 1991 Television Year Book, AGB shows how much the films with the highest television audience benefited in this way. For example, the live audience for Karate Kid of 12.7 million was increased by a further 1.4 million who saw it at home at a later date. Increases of this magnitude also occur for other well-known programmes, such as Inspector Morse, Casualty, Darling Buds of May and even Coronation Street.

Audience profiles for pre-recorded videos are typically skewed towards the young, but vary in terms of class. VideoTrack data for LA Young shows an upmarket young adult audience. Not surprisingly, perhaps, Kindergarten Cop had an even younger profile, but one with a lower social class. This suggests that video advertising can be used to target specific audiences, sometimes including people who are difficult to reach on ITV, Channel 4 or the commercial satellite channels.

Potential advertisers have worried about the extent to which video viewers fast-forward

TOP TV-RATED FILMS OF 1991 WITH LARGEST TIMESHIFT AUDIENCE

	% of audience due to timeshift	No. of extra viewers
Big	12	1.9m
Golden Child	12	1.7m
Karate Kid	10	1.4m
Lethal Weapon	10	1.4m
Big Trouble In Little China	8	1.2m
Buster	7	1.0m
Batman The Movie	7	0.9m
Coming To America	6	0.9m
Fatal Attraction	6	0.9m
Grat Outdoors	6	0.8m

Source: BARB/AGB

through commercials. AGB results show that though fast-forwarding through advertisements does occur, more than 60 per cent of the audience watches ads and trailers at normal speed.

In the United States, after a slow start, the video cassette business earned \$11 billion in 1991, of which \$3 billion was obtained through rental and \$3 billion from sales. This is more than twice as large as cinema box-office takings, and is meaningful compared with American television's \$26 billion advertising revenues.

The scale is different in the UK but, even so, the rental and sell-through market for videos in Britain is expected to be almost £1 billion in 1992. The recession has dampened growth in rental revenue, but the sell-through market continues to grow significantly and is expected to be worth £400 million this year.

As for advertising on video, with about 20 million people in the UK watching at least one video a week, the potential is there. In about 15 million British households, the VCR accounts for about 10 per cent of TV viewing time, comparable to the time spent watching Channel 4 or BBC 2.

The author is director of Stephan Buck Research, a non-executive director of the Addison Consultancy Group.

As from next week, the Media page appears on Tuesdays

It is universally acknowledged that Saatchi and Saatchi invented political advertising in 1979 when it ran a campaign called "Labour Isn't Working" and won the election for Margaret Thatcher.

But this is not true. The myth is cherished by the advertising industry because it portrays it as a powerhouse at the heart of the political process. And it has been enthusiastically embraced by the media. Count how many times the word "image" has appeared already in the coverage of this election.

But political advertising is not new, and its power can be over-rated. Even if you disregard Victorian political posters — and it is more accurate to say that baked beans have copied politics than the reverse — mass media advertising has been used by politicians for at least 40 years. The business really got going in

SELLING POINT: Advertising can win elections. But is this view a myth inspired by the image-makers?

Power and persuasion at the polls

America in 1952. Four years before, Thomas Dewey, the 1948 Republican presidential candidate, had been offered a multi-media advertising campaign by the Ted Bates agency in New York. (Ted Bates was the Saatchis of his day and was later, ironically, bought by Saatchis in its comatose old age.)

Dewey rejected the idea — and lost. These two facts may or may not have been connected, but that was a risk that Dwight Eisenhower, the 1952 Republican candidate, was unwilling to take. He went back to the Ted Bates agency and the "I Like Ike" campaign was born. It was a hit,

although the former general did not apparently relish becoming a television hustler.

During the filming of his commercials, he shook his head despondently and mumbled, "To think that an old soldier should have to come to this."

None the less, Eisenhower won by a landslide and the Bates agency, like Saatchis after it, was less than modest about its contribution to his success. "If only Dewey had known these things," the Bates boss boasted, "he too would have been president."

That claim was neither honest nor truthful. Eisenhower was a

cast-iron certainty, and he would have won with or without Bates's help; equally, Dewey would almost certainly have lost.

Politicians, however, have never been interested in such niceties. The lesson they learnt was simple: advertising wins elections. The era of high-pressure political persuasion had arrived. Harold Macmillan's victory in 1959, followed by Kennedy's in 1960, appeared to clinch the matter.

Like Eisenhower before him and Mrs Thatcher later, Macmillan employed what was then the hottest advertising agency in town, Colman Prentiss and Varley, which came up with the slogan

"Life's Better with the Conservatives — Don't Let Labour Run It". Such positive/negative double whammy-style slogans are much beloved by the Tories. Compare the 1983 Saatchis effort: "Britain is Great Again — Don't Let Labour Wreck It".

But "Labour Isn't Working" was not Mrs Thatcher's 1979 theme. It was just one of about a dozen Tory posters, and achieved its notoriety because Labour's campaign managers shot themselves in every available foot by clumsily attacking it when it transpired that the queue of unemployed workers portrayed on the poster were merely under-

employed Saatchis staff. Half the purpose of political publicity is to sting opponents into over-reacting; only naive opponents do so.

But does political advertising really achieve anything, apart from goading the enemy? It does ginger up supporters; they are galvanised into ever greater exertions by seeing their side's slogans on the boardings as they wearily slog around the streets.

In other respects, advertising's influence is marginal. Like Eisenhower, Mrs Thatcher was well ahead in the polls even before the 1979 campaign started. Indeed the Tories' popularity dipped slightly during its course, from

which one could deduce, if one so wished, that political advertising is counter-productive.

The transient, one-off nature of each campaign makes it all but impossible to identify the precise effects of the advertisements. The best research yet carried out — in the United States, where the campaigns are both bigger and much more aggressive — suggests that they may influence just more than 1 per cent of the electorate.

That 1 per cent may well decide the outcome of this election, so these are important people to target; but that does not detract from the fact that the remaining 99 per cent of us seem pretty impervious to the political ad-men's wiles.

WINSTON FLETCHER

● A Glittering Haze by Winston Fletcher was published last month by NTC publications.

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Human Rights Law Report

UK breach over interference with prisoner's correspondence

Campbell v United Kingdom
(Case No 52/1990/243/314)
Before: J. Cresson, President and
Judges: J. Pinheiro Faria, R.
Macdonald, A. Spielmann, S. K.
Martens, J. M. Morenilla and
Sir John Frelind

Registrar M.A. Eissen
[Judgment March 25]
Interference by prison authorities
with a prisoner's correspondence
with his solicitor and with the
European Commission of Human
Rights gave rise to a violation
of article 8 of the European Convention
on Human Rights.

The European Court of Human
Rights held by eight votes to
one in a complaint brought by
Mr Campbell against the UK.
The Court also held, unanimously,
that it was not necessary to
examine whether or not there was
a breach of article 25, paragraph 1
of the Convention.

Article 8 of the Convention
provides: "1. Everyone has the
right to respect for his private and
family life, his home and his
correspondence."
"2. There shall be no interference
by a public authority with the
exercise of this right except such
as is in accordance with the law
and is necessary in a democratic
society in the interests of national
security, public safety or the
economic well-being of the country,
for the prevention of disorder or
crime, for the protection of health
or morals, or for the protection
of the rights and freedoms of others."

Article 25, paragraph 1, of the
Convention provides: "The Commission
may receive petitions addressed to
the Secretary General of the Council
of Europe from any person, non-
governmental organisation or
group of individuals claiming to
be the victim of a violation by one
of the High Contracting Parties
of the rights set forth in [the]
Convention, provided that the
High Contracting Party against
which the complaint has been

lodged has declared that it
recognises the competence of the
Commission to receive such petitions.
Those of the High Contracting
Parties who have made such a
declaration undertake not to
hinder in any way the effective
exercise of this right."

The applicant was serving a
term of imprisonment for
murder following his conviction
on October 10, 1984. The trial
judge made a recommendation
that he should serve not less than
20 years.

Initially he was classified as a
category B prisoner, but following
an incident at Peterhead prison
he was charged with a number of
offences and re-classified as a
category A prisoner, the classification
pertaining to inmates requiring
the highest degree of security.
The charges were abandoned by
the Crown but it was not until
March 9, 1988 that he was made
a category B prisoner again.

From the beginning of his
sentence the applicant had been
advised by his solicitor in relation
to contemplated and pending
legal proceedings and other matters.
He had also been in correspondence
with the Commission.

Since 1985 his correspondence
with his solicitor and the Commission
had been regularly opened and
screened by the prison authorities.
The applicant made various complaints
to the Secretary of State and the
Scottish Home and Health Department
but was informed that all correspondence
would be opened in accordance
with normal rules except that
concerning complaints to the Commission.
He claimed, however, that despite
that statement correspondence to
and from the Commission had
not been opened.

He had been detained in, *inter
alia*, Perth and Peterhead
prisons, at a considerable distance
from his solicitor in Glasgow. He
was now in the special unit in
Bartiney prison, Glasgow.
The applicant lodged his appli-

cation with the European
Commission of Human Rights on
January 14, 1986. On November
8, 1989 the Commission declared
it admissible in part.

Having attempted unsuccessfully
to secure a friendly settlement,
the Commission drew up a report
on July 12, 1990 establishing
the facts of the case and
expressing the opinion that there
had been a violation of article 8
in respect of the opening of the
applicant's correspondence with
his solicitor concerning contemplated
and pending proceedings (11 votes
to 1); that there had been a
violation of article 8 in respect
of the opening of the applicant's
correspondence with the Commission
(11 votes to 1) but that the
applicant had not been hindered
in the effective exercise of the
right of individual petition under
article 25, paragraph 1 (10
votes to 2).

In its judgment, the European
Court of Human Rights held as
follows:
"1. Alleged violation of article 8
The applicant complained that
correspondence to and from his
solicitor and the Commission was
opened and read by the prison
authorities in breach of article 8.
A correspondence with his
solicitor.

In rejecting the Government's
arguments that the applicant's
complaint was not substantiated
and that in any event it related
only to the opening, and not to
the reading, of the correspondence,
the Court found that there had
been an interference with the
applicant's right to respect for his
correspondence to and from his
solicitor. That had been based on
the Prison Rules and Standing
Orders which provided for the
opening and reading of such
correspondence in order to en-

sure the prevention of disorder or
crime.

As to whether the interference
had been necessary in a democratic
society, the Court recognised
that some measure of control
over prisoners' correspondence
was not of itself incompatible
with the Convention and that
reasonable requirements of
implementation.

The Court saw no reason to
distinguish between the different
categories of correspondence with
lawyers, which, whatever their
purpose, concerned matters of a
private and confidential character
and were in principle privileged
under article 8.

That meant that the prison
authorities might open a letter
from a lawyer to a prisoner when
they had reasonable cause to
believe that it contained an
illegal demand, which the normal
means of detection have failed to
disclose. The letter should, however,
only be opened and should not
be read.

Suitable guarantees preventing
the reading of the letter should be
provided, for example, by opening
the letter in the presence of the
prisoner.

The reading of a prisoner's
mail to and from a lawyer should
only be permitted in exceptional
circumstances when the authorities
had reasonable cause to believe
that the privilege was being
abused in that the contents of
the correspondence related to
security or the safety of others or
were otherwise of a criminal
nature.

Both the Government and the
Commission made reference to
the European Agreement relating
to persons participating in
proceedings of the European Court
of Human Rights of May 6, 1969.
That Agreement was distinct from
the Convention and was binding on
twenty Contracting Parties, including
the United Kingdom from 1971. It
also applied to the applicant and his
solicitor (Article

1, paragraph (b) and (c)).

Article 3 of the Agreement
provided:
"1. The Contracting Parties
shall respect the right of the
persons referred to in paragraph
1 of article 1 of [the] Agreement to
correspond freely with the Commission
and the Court."

"2. As regards persons under
detention, the exercise of this
right shall in particular imply that:

(a) if their correspondence is
examined by the competent
authorities, its dispatch and delivery
shall nevertheless take place
without undue delay and without
alteration;

(b) such persons shall not be
subject to disciplinary measures
in any form on account of any
communication sent through the
proper channels to the Commission
or the Court."

The Court found that there
was a sufficient safeguard
against the possibility of abuse.
It was not persuaded by the
Government's arguments that
the professional competence and
integrity of solicitors could not
be compromised by the opening
of their correspondence with
prisoners.

It had not been suggested that
there was any reason to suspect
that the applicant's solicitor was
not complying with the rules of
his profession. The mere possibility
of abuse was outweighed by the
need to respect the confidentiality
attached to the lawyer-client relationship.

The Court found that there was
no pressing social need for the
opening and reading of the applicant's
correspondence with his
solicitor and that that interference
had not been necessary in a
democratic society within the
meaning of article 8, paragraph 2.
The Court rejected the Government's
argument, using the Euro-

pean Agreement by way of
analogy, that the opening of the
applicant's correspondence did
not prevent him from having an
effective opportunity to communicate
in confidence with his solicitor
during prison visits.

Correspondence was a different
medium of communication
which was afforded separate
protection under article 8. The right
to respect correspondence was of
special importance in a prison
context where it might be more
difficult for a legal adviser to visit
his client in person, as in the
present case, of the distant
location of the prison. Automatic
opening of such correspondence
would defeat the objective of confidentiality: communication with a
lawyer.

Given the possibility of examining
correspondence for reasons of
national security, the Court found
that there was a sufficient safeguard
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argument, using the Euro-

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BBC1

- 6.00 Cee-fax (98994) 6.30 BBC Breakfast News (21806159)
 9.05 Election Call. Charles Kennedy answers general election questions from the phone-in public. To participate ring 071-799 5000. Simultaneous broadcast with Radio 4 (1496197)
 10.00 News, regional news and weather (4835317)
 10.05 Playdays (s) (5994159) 10.25 The Family Nest (s) (4836604) 10.35 Glibberfish. Celebrity word game hosted by Kenny Everett (s) (7038371)
 11.00 News, regional news and weather (3188246) 11.05 Holiday (s) (Cee-fax) (s) (8015246) 11.30 People Today presented by Adrian Mills and Mairi Maciver. Includes News, regional news and weather at 12.00 (8701197)
 12.00 Pebble MML. Music and chat introduced by Judi Spiers (8739807)
 12.55 Regional News and weather (13736081)
 1.00 One O'Clock News and weather (31410)
 1.30 News. Cee-fax (s) (6431026) 1.50 Turnabout. Rob Curling with another round of the quiz that tests word power (64314081)
 2.15 Hawaii Five-O. American police drama series (4673772) 3.05 Help Your Child with Science. Ideas to help children see the effects of light and shade (5493449) 3.15 Moment of Truth. Aerial cameraman Richard Cooke prepares to shoot a once-in-a-lifetime photograph (9894307)
 3.50 Henry's Cat (s) (7805389) 4.05 Fiddley Fiddle Bird (s) (9780807)
 4.15 Jackanory. Patricia Routledge with Helen Cresswell's *Lizzie Drilling Goes to London* (s) (9685555) 4.30 The New York Show (s) (8573265) 4.35 Buddy O'Hare (8350994)
 5.00 Newsround (7667888) 5.10 Little Sir Nicholas. Episode one of a six-part drama (s) (Cee-fax) (s) (217807) Northern Ireland: Election Forum 5.45 Inside Ulster
 6.00 Six O'Clock News with Anna Ford and Andrew Harvey. (Cee-fax) Weather (36)
 6.30 Regional News Magazines (88). Northern Ireland: Neighbours 7.00 Wogan (s) (5159)
 7.30 Tomorrow's World. Reports on a new type of aeroplane from the people who invented the non-stop flyover, also environmentally friendly street lighting and Japan's plans to send men to Mars (72)
 8.00 Only Fools and Horses. Del helps a pregnant Rachel with her shabby career by getting her a cabaret slot alongside "The Singing Dustman" and appointing Rodney as her road manager (s) (Cee-fax) (110488)
 8.50 Puffs of View with Anne Robinson (s) (253230)
 9.00 News and Campaign Report with Martyn Lewis. (Cee-fax) Regional news and weather (782420)
 9.50 Party Election Broadcast by the Liberal Democrats (340536)



Battle force: Meredith, Tyler and Weston (10.00pm)

- 10.00 Q.E.D. Simon's Return.
 ● CHOICE: In his fourth film for Q.E.D., Falklands veteran Simon Weston returns to the south Atlantic with two colleagues, John Meredith and Gary Tyler. It is an attempt to exorcise a ghost. Weston was apparently burned when an Argentine aircraft bombed his ship, the Sir Galahad, killing 51 of his comrades. For years he has been obsessed with meeting the pilot who led the attack, former Lieutenant Carlos Cachon. With the cameras poised to capture the event, he finally does so. The conversation is conducted coolly and without bitterness but the emotion is tangible. Weston says he does not know whether the ghost has been laid but he feels more at peace. In a further attempt to put the Falklands conflict at rest in their minds, the veterans visit the evocative battle sites of San Carlos, Goose Green, Tumbledown and Wireless Ridge. (Cee-fax) (238710)
 10.50 Sportsnight presented by Desmond Lynam. Greyhound Racing: the 33rd BBC Television Trophy final from Belle Vue, Manchester; Horse Racing: a preview of Saturday's Grand National; Rowing: a look forward to Saturday's Oxford and Cambridge boat race; Football: reports from tonight's European club competitions and a preview of the weekend's FA Cup semi-finals; Olympic Reflections: the first of a series in which athletes select their special Olympic moments (7665888)
 12.00 On the Hustings (74314) 12.30am Weather (4102937)

BBC2

- 6.45 Open University. Miles of Aisles 7.10 Social Sciences: Reading the Landscape (3553197)
 8.00 Breakfast News (8262265)
 8.15 Five Go to Florida. A group of seriously ill children are taken on a holiday of a lifetime (s) (Cee-fax) (3138333)
 9.00 Film: Meet the People (1944, b/w) starring Lucille Ball and Dick Powell. Musical comedy about a Broadway star who becomes a shipyard worker. Directed by Charles Reisner (78480246)
 10.35 Film: The Naked Dawn (1955) starring Arthur Kennedy and Betty St. John. Drama set in Mexico about a train robber who involves a farmer and his family in his next job. Directed by Edgar J. Ulmer (2567468)
 11.55 The House. American comedy series set in a hotel (s) (3532888)
 12.20 Animation Now. Stanley and the Dinosaurs (5989994)
 12.30 Dive to the Edge of Creation. The life forms that exist 8,000ft beneath the surface of the Pacific at Galapagos Rift (s) (7113468)
 1.20 Johnson and Friends (s) (24861826) 1.30 Spider (s) (21964130)
 1.35 In the Post. The story of the first postage stamp (s) (13297343)
 2.00 News and weather (30353536) 2.05 Look, Stranger. A profile of Frank Roper, a sculptor and model maker (s) (82856333) 2.35 Country File (s) (5508178)
 3.00 News and weather (7554201) 3.05 High Chaparral. Western drama series (s) (3296401) 3.50 News, regional news and weather (2696333)
 4.00 Fit to Drop. The dangers in being an exercise addict (s) (Cee-fax) (6132623) 4.40 Little People... Big Business. The fascination of garden gnomes (9258975)
 5.10 Horowitz. A play for a lifetime. The importance of diet during pregnancy (s) (Cee-fax) (s) (5469994)
 6.00 Star Trek: The Next Generation. Science fiction adventure series starring Patrick Stewart. (Cee-fax) (511886)



Down on their luck: a Pittsburgh family's tragic tale (9.00pm)

- 6.50 DEF II: Reportage. One hundred first time voters discuss the general election, and a report on how news comes from a press conference to the front page of a newspaper (65952)
 7.30 Young Musicians of the Year. The brass semi-final featuring 12 musicians (s) (799082)
 8.10 Timewatch: The Story of Elisabeth Nietzsche.
 ● CHOICE: With his philosophy of the superman, Friedrich Nietzsche is often credited with providing the ideological basis for Hitler's master race. This film suggests that a better candidate might be Nietzsche's sister, Elisabeth. Not only was she a violent antisemite, which Friedrich was not, but she put her views into practical effect by setting up an Aryan "New Germany" in the Paraguayan jungle. It is a rich tale and writer/producer Candice Pryce-Jones does it justice. Tonight's programme, the first of two, shows how Elisabeth became intoxicated by racist ideas picked up from the composer Wagner, married a Jew-baiting schoolteacher and set sail for South America. The film also contains a portrait of the New Germany today, still in the jungle and still proclaiming the superiority of the Aryan race (s) (107994)
 9.00 Film: No Place Like Home (1989) starring Jeff Daniels and Christine Lahti. A made-for-TV movie about a Pittsburgh family who are forced to live on the streets after the husband is made redundant and their home is destroyed by fire. Directed by Lee Grant (9197)
 10.30 Party Election Broadcast by the Liberal Democrats (328642)
 10.40 Newsnight with Jeremy Paxman (573420)
 11.35 The Late Show. Arts and media magazine (s) (104284)
 12.05 Weather (5002111)
 12.10am Open University: Crossing the Border - Images of England in the 1930s (4186444). Ends at 12.40

ITV

- 6.00 TV-am (8878596)
 9.25 Lucky Ladders. Word association game show hosted by Lennie Bennett (4901052) 9.55 Thames News (930802)
 10.00 The Time... The Place... John Sopleton chairs the topical discussion series (2015197)
 10.10 This Morning. Magazine presented by Richard Madeley and Judy Finnigan (1709555)
 12.10 Allsorts. For the young (s) (7635604)
 12.30 Lunchtime News (Orade) Weather (8442517) 1.10 Thames News (24869468)
 1.20 Home and Away. Australian family drama series (44154492) 1.50 Country Practice. Medical drama (7995978)
 2.20 Graham Kerr. With recipes for taco de pescado and Cilantro pesto (5933265) 2.50 Take the High Road (8516197)
 3.15 ITN News headlines (9122028) 3.20 Thames News headlines (887951) 3.25 The Young Doctors (1558791)
 3.55 The Dreamteam. Fantasy cartoon series (s) (5841975) 4.20 Finders Keepers. Slapstick game show (8454771) 4.50 Johnny Ball Reveals All. How to make numbers and counting easy. With World Brain champion Dominic O'Brien (6389555)
 5.10 Blockbusters. General knowledge quiz for teenagers (8576352)
 5.40 Early Evening News with John Suchet. (Orade) Weather (119826)
 6.00 Home and Away (s) (Orade) (84)
 6.30 Thames News. (Orade) (878420)
 6.55 Party Election Broadcast by the Liberal Democrats. (Orade) (702541)
 7.00 This is Your Life. Michael Aspel springs an emotional surprise on another unsuspecting worthy (s) (3555)
 7.30 Coronation Street. (Orade) (8)
 8.00 Film: Goldfinger (1964)
 ● CHOICE: The third James Bond film remains one of the best, made when Sean Connery was still offering his insolent charm and before the formula had been tried by repetition. On one level the film is a contest between Bond and the usual aspiring world dictator here represented by Gene Trob's outside Gollfinger. On another it pits Connery, Frobe, Honor Blackman and company against Ken Adam's inventive technological sets and a raft of extravagant hardware, including an Aston Martin fitted with optional extras available at no car show prices. Unlike the Ian Fleming novels which inspired them, the Bond films are a huge, tongue-in-cheek joke. In 1964 the joke was still fresh, embodied in a cheeky script by Richard Maibaum and Paul Dehn and handled with a light touch by director Guy Hamilton. (Orade) (2159)
 10.00 News at Ten. (Orade) Weather (90401) 10.30 Thames News (322468)

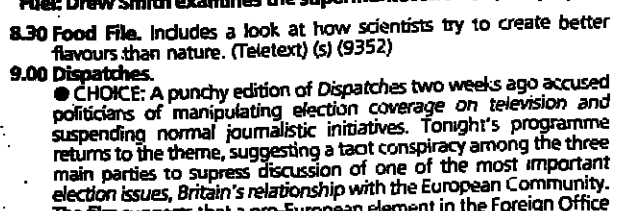


The avenger and his sister: Bruce Lee and Shin Kien (10.40pm)

- 10.40 Film: Enter the Dragon (1973) starring Bruce Lee in his last film before his death at the age of 33. Martial arts adventure in which he heroically the job of breaking into an island fortress housing a criminal mastermind who was responsible for the death of his sister. Directed by Robert Clouse (68987826)
 12.30 Visions. Includes the novelist Alan Thomas Ellis talking about the role faith plays in her life (s) (23192)
 1.00 Film: One Way Out (1955, b/w) starring Al Adams and Eddie Byrne. Thriller about a dedicated policeman who is blackmailed when his daughter is implicated in a robbery. Directed by Francis Searle (7379717)
 2.15 America's Top Ten presented by Casey Kasen (s) (93005)
 2.45 VideoFest. The influence of British designer Jean Muir (5015043)
 3.10 Quiz Night. Inter pub and club competition (81168550)
 3.40 The Twilght Zone: The Once and Future King. A tale of the supernatural involving an Elvis Presley look-alike (s) (47867192)
 4.10 Along the Cotswold Way. Clive Gurnell travels from Stanton to Snowdonia (11137260)
 4.40 Fifty Years On (b/w). Vintage newsreel clips (38778482)
 5.00 Three's Company. American comedy series (15734)
 5.30 ITN Morning News (60111). Ends at 6.00

CHANNEL 4

- 6.00 Channel 4 Daily (8376178)
 9.25 Film: Vintage Wine (1935, b/w) starring Seymour Hicks. Comedy about a 60-year-old widower who lies about his age and marries a young woman — much to his sons' consternation. Directed by Henry Edwards (3506474)
 10.50 Zero is Scored. Plasticine animation from Hungary (3944825)
 11.00 Kingdoms of the East. The tigers of north India and Nepal (s) (Teletext) (86604) 12.00 Noah's Ark. The animals of the Galapagos islands (20642) 12.30 Learning Daily (37420)
 1.00 Sesame Street. Early learning series (37420)
 2.00 Film: Summer Storm (1944, b/w) starring George Sanders and Linda Darnell. Drama based on Chekhov's *The Shooting Party* about a married peasant woman whose illicit love affairs eventually lead to tragedy. Directed by Douglas Sirk (1420)
 4.00 Short Stories: The Inheritance. A portrait of an Anglo-Irish family struggling to survive in their crumbling stately pile in Cork (s) (7)
 4.30 Fifteen to One. Fast-moving general knowledge quiz (81)
 5.00 The Oprah Winfrey Show. Today's guests are men and their former mothers-in-law (4084917) 5.55 Laurel and Hardy (776401)
 6.00 Star Chamber. Veteran Labour politician Tony Benn is grilled by the computer (46)
 6.30 Tonight with Jonathan Ross. Guests include Mike Myers and Dana Carvey from Wayne's World and Twin Peak's Sherilyn Fenn (s)
 7.00 Channel 4 News. (Teletext) Weather (846710)
 7.50 Voters. Four voters in a Dundee pub discuss election issues (300212)
 8.00 Brookside. Soap set in suburban Merseyside. (Teletext) (s) (7517)



Puck: Drew Smith examines the supermarket shelves (8.30pm)

- 8.30 Food File. Includes a look at how scientists try to create better flavours than nature. (Teletext) (s) (9552)
 9.00 Dispatches.
 ● CHOICE: A punchy edition of Dispatches two weeks ago accused politicians of manipulating election coverage on television and suspending normal journalistic initiatives. Tonight's programme returns to the theme, suggesting a tacit conspiracy among the three main parties to suppress disclosure of one of the most important election issues, Britain's relationship with the European Community. The film suggests that a pro-European element in the Foreign Office has hijacked British policy, overruling even powerful sceptics such as Mrs Thatcher. At the same time the programme questions the economic benefits that EC membership has brought, reckons that the Common Agricultural Policy is costing each British household £20 a week and reports disenchantment among farmers, fishermen and small businesses. Politicians from the main parties are given the chance to reply (9449)
 10.00 The Golden Girls. Comedy about the lives of four women of a certain age sharing a Miami home (s). (Teletext) (21371)
 10.30 The Jack Dee Show. Last in the series starring the comic with the deadpan face (12361)
 11.00 Drop the Dead Donkey. Award-winning comedy set in the offices of a television news station (s) (8081)
 11.30 Tonight with Jonathan Ross. Another visit to Los Angeles. The guest is heart-throb actor Johnny Depp (83284)
 12.00 Midnight Special. Election news round-up including a party political broadcast by the Liberal Democrats (335647)
 2.00 Star Chamber. A repeat of 6.00pm's programme (335647)
 2.30 Dick Spanner. Animated private eye series created by Gerry Anderson. (5876802). Ends at 2.35

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SATellite

- SKY ONE**
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RADIO 1

- Steve Wright in the Afternoon 6.00am Radio 1's Big Breakfast 6.30am Radio 1's Big Breakfast 6.45am Radio 1's Big Breakfast 7.00am Radio 1's Big Breakfast 7.15am Radio 1's Big Breakfast 7.30am Radio 1's Big Breakfast 7.45am Radio 1's Big Breakfast 8.00am Radio 1's Big Breakfast 8.15am Radio 1's Big Breakfast 8.30am Radio 1's Big Breakfast 8.45am Radio 1's Big Breakfast 9.00am Radio 1's Big Breakfast 9.15am Radio 1's Big Breakfast 9.30am Radio 1's Big Breakfast 9.45am Radio 1's Big Breakfast 10.00am Radio 1's Big Breakfast 10.15am Radio 1's Big Breakfast 10.30am Radio 1's Big Breakfast 10.45am Radio 1's Big Breakfast 11.00am Radio 1's Big Breakfast 11.15am Radio 1's Big Breakfast 11.30am Radio 1's Big Breakfast 11.45am Radio 1's Big Breakfast 12.00am Radio 1's Big Breakfast 12.15am Radio 1's Big Breakfast 12.30am Radio 1's Big Breakfast 12.45am Radio 1's Big Breakfast 1.00am Radio 1's Big Breakfast 1.15am Radio 1's Big Breakfast 1.30am Radio 1's Big Breakfast 1.45am Radio 1's Big Breakfast 2.00am Radio 1's Big Breakfast 2.15am Radio 1's Big Breakfast 2.30am Radio 1's Big Breakfast 2.45am Radio 1's Big Breakfast 3.00am Radio 1's Big Breakfast 3.15am Radio 1's Big Breakfast 3.30am Radio 1's Big Breakfast 3.45am Radio 1's Big Breakfast 4.00am Radio 1's Big Breakfast 4.15am Radio 1's Big Breakfast 4.30am Radio 1's Big Breakfast 4.45am Radio 1's Big Breakfast 5.00am Radio 1's Big Breakfast 5.15am Radio 1's Big Breakfast 5.30am Radio 1's Big Breakfast 5.45am Radio 1's Big Breakfast 6.00am Radio 1's Big Breakfast

RADIO 2

- Thought 9.30am Ken Bruce 11.30am Jimmy Young 2.00pm Gloria Hunniford 3.30pm Stuart Pearce 4.00pm Radio 2's Big Breakfast 4.30pm Radio 2's Big Breakfast 5.00pm Radio 2's Big Breakfast 5.30pm Radio 2's Big Breakfast 6.00pm Radio 2's Big Breakfast 6.30pm Radio 2's Big Breakfast 6.45pm Radio 2's Big Breakfast 7.00pm Radio 2's Big Breakfast 7.15pm Radio 2's Big Breakfast 7.30pm Radio 2's Big Breakfast 7.45pm Radio 2's Big Breakfast 8.00pm Radio 2's Big Breakfast 8.15pm Radio 2's Big Breakfast 8.30pm Radio 2's Big Breakfast 8.45pm Radio 2's Big Breakfast 9.00pm Radio 2's Big Breakfast 9.15pm Radio 2's Big Breakfast 9.30pm Radio 2's Big Breakfast 9.45pm Radio 2's Big Breakfast 10.00pm Radio 2's Big Breakfast 10.15pm Radio 2's Big Breakfast 10.30pm Radio 2's Big Breakfast 10.45pm Radio 2's Big Breakfast 11.00pm Radio 2's Big Breakfast 11.15pm Radio 2's Big Breakfast 11.30pm Radio 2's Big Breakfast 11.45pm Radio 2's Big Breakfast 12.00pm Radio 2's Big Breakfast 12.15pm Radio 2's Big Breakfast 12.30pm Radio 2's Big Breakfast 12.45pm Radio 2's Big Breakfast 1.00am Radio 2's Big Breakfast 1.15am Radio 2's Big Breakfast 1.30am Radio 2's Big Breakfast 1.45am Radio 2's Big Breakfast 2.00am Radio 2's Big Breakfast 2.15am Radio 2's Big Breakfast 2.30am Radio 2's Big Breakfast 2.45am Radio 2's Big Breakfast 3.00am Radio 2's Big Breakfast 3.15am Radio 2's Big Breakfast 3.30am Radio 2's Big Breakfast 3.45am Radio 2's Big Breakfast 4.00am Radio 2's Big Breakfast 4.15am Radio 2's Big Breakfast 4.30am Radio 2's Big Breakfast 4.45am Radio 2's Big Breakfast 5.00am Radio 2's Big Breakfast 5.15am Radio 2's Big Breakfast 5.30am Radio 2's Big Breakfast 5.45am Radio 2's Big Breakfast 6.00am Radio 2's Big Breakfast

RADIO 5

- Resources 7.00am 9.15am Dance Workshop 9.30am Versus University 9.45am Time and Tune 10.00am Drama Workshop 10.25am 1.2.3.4.5.10.40am Johnnie Walker with the All Stars 12.30pm Education Magazine 1.00pm News Update 1.15pm 1.2.3.4.5.10.40am World Wide World 1.30pm The Squad 2.30pm Sports Discovery 3.00pm 3.30pm 3.45pm Good Books 4.00pm Development 4.30pm Five A Day 4.45pm 5.00pm 5.15pm 5.30pm 5.45pm 6.00pm 6.15pm 6.30pm 6.45pm 7.00pm 7.15pm 7.30pm 7.45pm 8.00pm 8.15pm 8.30pm 8.45pm 9.00pm 9.15pm 9.30pm 9.45pm 10.00pm 10.15pm 10.30pm 10.45pm 11.00pm 11.15pm 11.30pm 11.45pm 12.00pm 12.15pm 12.30pm 12.45pm 1.00am 1.15am 1.30am 1.45am 2.00am 2.15am 2.30am 2.45am 3.00am 3.15am 3.30am 3.45am 4.00am 4.15am 4.30am 4.45am 5.00am 5.15am 5.30am 5.45am 6.00am 6.15am 6.30pm 6.45pm 7.00pm 7.15pm 7.30pm 7.45pm 8.00pm 8.15pm 8.30pm 8.45pm 9.00pm 9.15pm 9.30pm 9.45pm 10.00pm 10.15pm 10.30pm 10.45pm 11.00pm 11.15pm 11.30pm 11.45pm 12.00pm 12.15pm 12.30pm 12.45pm 1.00am 1.15am 1.30am 1.45am 2.00am 2.15am 2.30am 2.45am 3.00am 3.15am 3.30am 3.45am 4.00am 4.15am 4.30am 4.45am 5.00am 5.15am 5.30am 5.45am 6.00am 6.15am 6.30pm 6.45pm 7.00pm 7.15pm 7.30pm 7.45pm 8.00pm 8.15pm 8.30pm 8.45pm 9.00pm 9.15pm 9.30pm 9.45pm 10.00pm